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CONTENTS

Soviet Union

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CSCE/MBFR

Carter Assailed for Alleging Soviet Obstruction in Belgrade [Editorial ZA RUBEZHOM 16 Mar] BB 1 1/A6
Attempt To Use Neutron Bomb for MBFR Bargaining Viewed [Rokin] BB 2 1/A7

GENERAL

'International Situation--Questions and Answers' Program [Shishkovskiy, Vorontsov, Bovin, Prostakov, Zenovich, Semeyko] A 1 1/A8
Belgrade Results A 1 1/A8
Events in China A 3 1/A10
Vatican Policy A 4 1/A11
Rhodesian Situation A 5 1/A12
Nixon, Ford, Kissinger A 7 1/A14
Avoiding Nuclear War A 8 1/B1
Racism of Pretoria, Salisbury, Tel Aviv Regimes Scored [Bokhonko] A 9 1/B2
Kosygin Greets World Maritime Consultative Organization A 10 1/B3

UNITED STATES

Carter Speech Returns to Dangerous Confrontation Policy [Kozyakov] B 1 1/B4
Creates Alarm [Glazunov] B 2 1/B5
Secretary Brown Backs Schlessinger Counterforce Strategy [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Mar] B 2 1/B5
Begin Visit Designed To Strengthen U.S. Support, Backing B 3 1/B6
Weizman Arms Assistance Trip to U.S. Very Successful B 3 1/B6
U.S. Military in Asia Protects Imperialist Interests [Pavlov] B 4 1/B7
American Human Rights Campaign Only Aggravates Tension [Druzhinin] B 5 1/B8
Lockheed Involved in Illegal, Secret Exports to ROK B 6 1/B9

CHINA

Peking Uses EEC as Back Door to NATO, U.S. Hardware [Polyanov in IZVESTIYA 18 Mar] C 1 1/B10
NEDELYA Traces PRC Support of Somali 'Aggressor' [NEDELYA 16 Mar] C 3 1/B12
PRC Nuclear Test, Militarization Plan Examined [Mulatov] C 3 1/B12
Chinese Attempts to Manipulate ASEAN Revealed [Nikolayev] C 4 1/B13

PRC, Not USSR, Guilty of Hegemony in Asia C 6 1/C1

EAST EUROPE

Kosygin, Brezhnev Send Greetings to Bulgarian Counterparts [PRAVDA 18 Mar] D 1 1/C2
Anniversary Hailed [PRAVDA 17 Mar] D 2 1/C3
Husak Confers Hero of CSSR Award on Vladimir Remek D 2 1/C3

WEST EUROPE AND CANADA

USSR Makes Representation to Canadian Ambassador 16 Mar E 1 1/C4
Further Outcry Against Italian Leader Moro's Kidnaping E 1 1/C4
Countering With Unanimous Actions [Krivopalov in IZVESTIYA 18 Mar] E 1 1/C4
Italian CP Comment [Prozhogin in PRAVDA 17 Mar] E 2 1/C5
People Protest Crime [Prozhogin in PRAVDA 17 Mar] E 2 1/C5
Alleged Foreign Intelligence Backing [PRAVDA 18 Mar] E 2 1/C5
Bourgeois Propaganda Influenced French Election [Dmitriyev] E 3 1/C6
L'HUMANITE Accuses Socialist Voters of Betraying Left [Dmitriyev] E 3 1/C6
France Charged With Secretly Creating Neutron Bomb E 4 1/C7
Spain's Oreja Comments on 'Normalization' of Relations [Chernyshev in PRAVDA 17 Mar] E 4 1/C7
Common Market: Low Growth, More Unemployment in 1978 E 4 1/C7

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Additional Material on Israeli Move Into Lebanon F 1 1/C8
Damascus, Baghdad Meetings F 1 1/C8
Al-Huss to Syria F 1 1/C8
Aggression Expanding F 2 1/C9
Israeli Air Raids [Rassadin] F 3 1/C10
Israeli Aims, Responsibilities [Glukhov] F 3 1/C10
Palestinian Resistance; Situation in Beirut [Korshunov in IZVESTIYA 19 Mar] F 4 1/C11
Separate Talks Versus Geneva [Stoklitskiy] F 5 1/C12
Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues F 6 1/C13
Tyazhelnikov-led CPSU Delegation Returns from South Yemen [PRAVDA 18 Mar] F 7 1/C14
Briefs: Syrian Dam F 7 1/C14

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Creation of Blocs in Africa a Dangerous Development [Kulik] H 1 1/D1
U.S. Official Continues Talks With Somali Leaders H 2 1/D2
Kenyan Opposes Somali Claims to Neighboring States H 2 1/D2
Peasants Have Become Defenders of New Ethiopia [Korovikov in PRAVDA] H 3 1/D3
Salisbury Agreement Complicates Situation in Rhodesia [Tarasov in PRAVDA 18 Mar] H 4 1/D4

NORTHEAST ASIA

Kanemaru Reiterates Demand for Increased Military Arms [Geronin] M 1 1/D5
Japan Refuses Concessions at Tokyo Talks With EEC M 1 1/D5
Japanese Delegation Hears Demand for Antihegemony Clause [Tsvetov] M 1 1/D5
Moscow Cites Ties to West in Defense of Treaty With Japan [Afonin] M 2 1/D6
Moscow Meeting Marks USSR-DPRK Agreement Anniversary M 4 1/D8

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Signing of Cuba-PRC Trade Protocol Reported N 1 1/D9
Cuba Expresses Condemnation of Israeli Aggression N 1 1/D9
Mounting Resistance to Terror Reported in Nicaragua N 1 1/D9
Arrival of U.S. Forces in Canal Zone Linked to Treaty [Karmen in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 16 Mar] N 2 1/D10

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

CPSU Academy Completes Latest Study Course for Leaders [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 17 Mar] R 1 1/D11
Ukrainian Constitutional Body Approves Draft Constitution R 1 1/D11
Shcherbitskiy Attends Ukrainian CP CC Plenum in Kiev R 1 1/D11

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

CPSU CC Issues Resolution on Construction Ministry [PRAVDA 18 Mar] S 1 1/D12
Briefs: Industrial Output Up S 3 1/D14

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Soyuz-27 Crewmen Begin Readjustment to Earth Gravity [Zheleznov] U 1 1/E1
Briefs: Antarctic Shipping; New MHD Installation U 1 1/E1

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58

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CARTER ASSAILED FOR ALLEGING SOVIET OBSTRUCTION IN BELGRADE

LD201533Y Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 12 Signed to Press 16 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Important and Beneficial Steps"]

Detente Process Continuing

[Excerpt] On March 11 the press of 33 European countries and the United States and Canada published the final document of the Belgrade meeting. Convened in accordance with the provisions of the final act, the meeting ran from 4 October 1977 through 9 March 1978 with a short break. Its participants included representatives of all the states whose leading statesmen and politicians in 1975 concluded the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe by signing in Helsinki the final act, which was drawn up jointly and approved by all.

The meeting in Belgrade was not just long but also tumultuous. Ruling circles in the United States, whose contribution to drawing up the Helsinki accords, as is known, were minimal, attempted to use the Belgrade meeting to achieve their own ends which run counter to the interests of Europe. The U.S. delegation was against discussing in a businesslike way important and necessary Soviet proposals aimed at filling detente with specific substance--reaching agreement on reducing arms and armed forces and on limiting the arms race in all areas; also holding all-European conferences on environmental protection, transportation and the power industry--and attempted to distract the participants of the meeting away from discussing specific proposals submitted by other socialist and neutral countries.

From the very beginning Washington set itself the goal of using the Belgrade meeting to revise the main provisions of the final act, changing it into an instrument of interference in the internal affairs of other, primarily socialist, countries.

Nevertheless, the enemies of detente failed to achieve their subversive goals of exchanging the final act for a document concocted in NATO offices that would have given them the opportunity to reverse the wheel of history and return Europe to the cold war. Despite all their efforts the final document precisely and unambiguously points out that "representatives of the participant states stressed the significance they attach to detente, which has continued since the adoption of the final act despite the difficulties and obstacles encountered. In this context they emphasized the role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, bearing in mind the fact that putting into practice the provisions of the final act is vitally important for the development of that process." It is no less important that representatives of the participant states "confirmed their governments' determination to fulfill all the provisions of the final act unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally."

Although the delegation from the United States, some of its NATO allies and especially the capitalist press attempted to blacken the Belgrade meeting as "useless" and predicted that the meeting would be the first and last of its kind, the final document records that, "guided by the appropriate provisions of the final act and the determination to continue the diverse process initiated by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the participant states will hold subsequent meetings of their representatives."

The bourgeois press, displaying maximum zeal in the ignoble cause of blackening the Belgrade meeting and using more poison than ink in describing it, decided from the beginning to write off the final document of the meeting as unnecessary, lacking substance and unhelpful to detente and cooperation. [paragraph continues]

It considers the chief shortcoming of the document to be that, by ignoring the demagoguery on "human rights," it has not legalized the ambition of the capitalist leaders to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist countries. However, seeing that the document has the approval of the broad public, bourgeois observers, and behind them statesmen and politicians of the United States and its accomplices, have altered their tone and begun to speak of the Belgrade meeting and its final document as a success for the United States and its NATO allies. Some of them, particularly U.S. President J. Carter, even dared to assert that the document could have been more meaningful and fruitful for detente and international cooperation if it had not been for opposition from the Soviet Union, which prevented the inclusion in the document of a false, purely propaganda question on "human rights," which the current U.S. leadership wanted to transform into the main slogan of their anti-Soviet, antisocialist maneuvers. By the joint efforts of the socialist countries, supported by the peace-loving forces of Europe and America, success was achieved in Belgrade in defending the provisions and accords of the final act, which outlined the main directions of detente and the area of mutually beneficial cooperation. An important positive and beneficial step has been taken.

ATTEMPT TO USE NEUTRON BOMB FOR MBFR BARGAINING VIEWED

LD171444Y Moscow TASS in English 1432 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 17 TASS--TASS commentator Aleksandr Rokin writes: Rumpus in the West over the neutron weapons is assuming ever greater proportions. To judge by Brussels reports of Western news agencies, NATO circles want the neutron bomb to be used as "small change" at East-West talks on disarmament. That such plans exist was confirmed recently by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown while Leslie Gelb, director of the Bureau for Military and Political Affairs, the U.S. State Department, directly linked this problem with the Vienna talks on mutual force reductions in central Europe. All this plan is a rather simple one. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Pentagon to justify its plans for the manufacture of neutron weapons in the conditions of surging mass protests in many countries. To give a semblance of respectability to these plans, the makers of these plans decided to put the blame at somebody else's door by making a proposal which they knew would be unacceptable to the Soviet Union, and then accuse it of intractibility and pretend that they have no other choice but to equip their troops with neutron weapons. In fact everything is quite different. It was precisely the Soviet Union that, being desirous of preventing a new dangerous spiral in the arms race, suggested that agreement should be reached on mutual refusal to produce neutron weapons. Some time ago the socialist countries, members of the disarmament committee, submitted a draft convention prohibiting the manufacture, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons. Such is the constructive position of the socialist states on this issue, which fully agrees with the principle of equal security and equal commitments. The experience of disarmament talks shows that putting forward of unacceptable proposals, definitely unacceptable to the other side, and making attempts to equate absolutely incomparable arms systems has never produced and cannot produce any positive results.

The neutron bomb plans of militarist circles in the West are at variance with the clearly expressed intention of European states to supplement the relaxation of political tension with an easing of military tension. It is also in place to recall that in 1975 the Soviet Union submitted to the U.N. General Assembly a proposal banning the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons and tabled an international draft agreement on this question. If this proposal had been approved the world would not be facing now a new problem posing a serious danger to it.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION--QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS' PROGRAM

LD171905Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

["International Situation--Questions and Answers" program, presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy, with Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation at the Belgrade CSCE meeting; Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer; Valeriy Prostakov, Soviet television and radio correspondent in Rome; Mikhail Konstatinovich Zenovich, PRAVDA observer; Lev Semenovich Semeyko, sector chief of the U.S. and Canada Institute attached to the USSR Academy of Sciences and candidate of military sciences]

Belgrade Results

[Excerpts] [Shishkovskiy] Good day, respected comrades. Most of your letters center on the recent Belgrade meeting of countries that participated in the All-European confer conference. I am handing over to Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation to the Belgrade meeting, who is taking part in today's program.

[Vorontsov] The Belgrade meeting was at work for 5 months. That meeting was convened on the basis of decisions which are part of the important understandings achieved at the conference of heads of government in Helsinki. As envisaged in Helsinki, views were exchanged on issues of security and cooperation in Europe. We believe that we were able to hold a serious discussion on how security should be strengthened and what efforts should be made toward expanding cooperation in Europe, both now and in the future. Thus the main result of the Belgrade meeting is that the course toward cooperation, the course toward detente in Europe, which was outlined by the historic decisions of Helsinki, has again been confirmed. It has to be said that this Helsinki-style course was confirmed very firmly by the majority of countries, and reflected in the final document of the Belgrade meeting.

[Shishkovskiy] What is your explanation, Yuliy Mikhaylovich, for the complexity of the meeting's work? We know, after all, that the discussions were not always smooth: Why was that?

[Vorontsov] They were not smooth primarily because from the very first day of work in Belgrade--and to the very last day also, it must be said--the U.S. delegation tried to divert the Belgrade meeting from the issues of security and cooperation. They were not interested in the various interesting proposals made primarily by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, a large number of neutral and nonalined countries, and even by member-countries of the NATO military bloc--proposals which were really aimed at the development of cooperation and the strengthening of security in Europe. The U.S. delegation attempted to divert the entire meeting away from discussing those issues and to channel it wholly into a discussion of questions of the internal affairs of primarily the socialist countries. That means that there was a complete rift over the tasks which were set for Belgrade at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and this had to be combated throughout the entire meeting. This naturally took up a good deal of time and, of course, to a degree this did prevent a fuller discussion of the issues of real interest to all European countries: those of cooperation, of reinforcing security and of limiting the arms race.

[Shishkovskiy] Why has the United States and its spokesmen in Belgrade said so much about human rights? Was this part of the job of the Belgrade meeting?

[Vorontsov] Of the decisions adopted in the final act, which was the outcome of the All-European conference in Helsinki, the core includes the 10 principles of relationships between states--10 genuinely important principles by which countries should be guided in their relations with each other.

They include such important principles as the equality of rights between states, sovereign equality, and noninterference in internal affairs. There is also the principle of respect for human rights--it is one of the 10 principles.

The U.S. delegation continually tried to concentrate attention on the discussion of this one principle in an attempt to utilize it as an instrument of interference in the socialist countries' internal affairs. The Soviet Union places a high value on human rights, and those human rights are stipulated in our Constitution. And we said so at the Belgrade meeting. But we did not agree that the Belgrade meeting should be turned into a conference on human rights. We could clearly see--and an analysis after the Belgrade meeting confirms it--that the United States was not really interested in issues of human rights. The United States was interested in utilizing that issue as a diversionary maneuver.

[Shishkovskiy] Diversionary from what?

[Vorontsov] From a discussion of the urgent matters of security and cooperation. In other words, it was a tool with which they wanted to completely turn the process of interstate cooperation begun in Helsinki, into interference in the internal affairs of other states. The Soviet delegation did not hesitate to use examples and specific facts and figures to demonstrate the true picture of human rights violations in the United States. The Soviet delegation spoke of the persecution of national minorities in the United States; of the lack of rights for women, who still do not have equal rights under the U.S. Constitution and the law; of the plight of the native Indian population of the United States; of the plight of immigrant workers from Mexico--all these concrete facts portrayed the genuinely massive violations of human rights in the United States.

[Shishkovskiy] Moreover, the United States has not, as we know, signed a number of international human rights agreements, although many states, including the Soviet Union, have signed those documents.

[Vorontsov] However the American delegation evaded discussion of these matters. They had nothing to say--either in their defense or to justify themselves. So they evaded discussion of the issue of human rights in the United States: They were interested only in an attempt to divert the conference from the material questions with which the Belgrade conference was to have dealt.

[Shishkovskiy] The Belgrade meeting is behind us. What have its participants planned for the further implementation of the Helsinki understandings?

[Vorontsov] Since the basic purpose of the Belgrade meeting was to direct the states of Europe and participants in the all-European conference toward a further implementation of the Helsinki decisions, of all those accords which were reached in 1975, that is also the task which remains for the future. Each government and country will draw the requisite conclusions as to what must be done, and in what direction, for the implementation of the Helsinki accords. There are also a large number of multilateral decisions: the meetings of special groups--for instance, a special group on the peaceful resolution of disputes, and a second special group will deal with the preparations for a scientific forum of the 35 countries participatory to the all-European conference, while a third special group will examine questions of economic, scientific and cultural cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Soviet Union did propose that a fourth specialist group meet on questions of military detente, but the proposal was blocked by the U.S. delegation. The Belgrade meeting, like the all-European conference, works on the principle of unanimity. Consequently unanimity was not reached because of the U.S. stance, and that issue remained unsolved.

A decision was also made in Belgrade for the next meeting to be held in Madrid in 1980. That will be the next stage at which the 35 participants in the all-European conference will again exchange views on how to further implement the important and truly historic decisions of the general European conference.

Events in China

[Shishkovskiy] Many letters are devoted to events in China. To answer you, comrades, we have called on Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich Bovin, political observer of the paper IZVESTIYA. Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, the question one comes across most frequently is connected with the recent session of the fifth convocation of The National People's Congress. What can be said about its results?

[Bovin] If one is referring to the formal, external aspect of the matter, the session confirmed the new compsition of the State Council, the government of the People's Republic of China, elected a Standing committee of the National People's Congress--this is something like our Presidium of the Supreme Soviet--and adopted a new PRC Constitution.

[Shishkovskiy] Why do you stress that this is the formal aspect of the matter?

[Bovin] Because under political regimes like that in present-day China, these official acts and official documents are in no way an adquate reflection of the actual sociopolitical processes. In this particular case, the point was to legalize the new disposition of forces in the party and state leadership of China and to obtain the sanction of the supreme organ of power to conduct the political policy which has been formulated by this leadership. It is known that throughout recent years, Soviet communists and communists of other countries have repeatedly said that the political course forced on China by Mao Tse-tung had led the country into an economic and political blind alley. Peking propaganda naturally did not agree with this, and angrily claimed that everything was going fine. But now let us take the report on Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the PRC Central Committee and premier of the State Council, at this same session. I quote: The entire national economy, said Hua Kuo-feng on 26 February, was practically on the brink of catastrophe. In several regions and industries, he continued, there were stoppages and production failures at industrial enterprises. The countryside had reverted to individual labor on plots arbitrarily created. Corruption, speculation and theft were rife. Class enemies were on the rampage. There were open attacks by unreeducated landowners, rich kulaks and counterrevolutionaries. Here and there, Hua Kuo-feng concluded, the matter had taken a really serious turn--the restoration of capitalism had taken place. That is a description of the economy and the general social situation. This is a general picture of what was described the other day in a curious article in PEOPLE'S DAILY on bribery, in which it was stated that building organizations only do their work on time if the their clients' leadership [as heard] entertains them, and gives them presents. There is even a saying which has appeared, according to PEOPLE'S DAILY: If there is wine and meat, we will hurry; if there is not, we will not. This is characteristic of many enterprises in China now.

As far as science, culture and education are concerned, in the same report Hua Kuo-feng points out that a fascist cultural despotism reigned on this front. It was stated at the session that, as a result of the outrages and excesses, all the best films went out of print, and splendid historical-traditional plays were expelled from the theater. Many genres of art of various ethnic groups were suppressed. The publication of fine works of Chinese and foreign literatue was stopped. Public, scientific and cultural organizations were disbanded. In general, a situation which leaves quite an impression.

[Shishkovskiy] Yes, but these philippics were not directed at Mao Tse-tung.

[Bovin] Certainly not, this is the whole point. The present Peking leaders want to preserve the cult of the great helmsman at any price. This cult is necessary to them as a sort of ideological-political factor acting on the masses, uniting the masses, subordinating the masses to the accustomed political propaganda stereotypes. Therefore, all sins are ascribed to the so-called "gang of four." Mao Tse-tung did everything right, did everything well, but this gang distorted his instructions and tried to restore capitalism. This is the way Chinese propaganda is representing the question now.

However, even the Chinese understand that behind the criticism of the "gang of four," a review of many of Mao Tse-tung's rulings is in progress. But I repeat that the whole ritual of bowing to Mao Tse-tung is preserved. He is quoted all the time, they continue to consider him infallible and great. But all these solemn prayers are false, since it is clear to everyone that Chiang Ching and her group basked in reflected light, that they were not acting against Mao, but in accordance with his will, ideas and instructions.

[Shishkovskiy] One might say that the de-Maoization of China is taking place.

[Bovin] In my opinion such a conclusion would be premature. On the contrary, it seems by rejecting, by ascribing to the "gang of four" the more odious aspects of Mao Tse-tung's policy, the present Peking leadership is trying to make Maoism more attractive, more in line with the spirit of the times, if you like. The task has now been set. The general task, as was stressed at the session, is to convert China, by the end of the 20th century, into a great, mighty socialist power. This is even written into the new Constitution. This is now stated in every speech by the Chinese leaders. In fact China has all the foundations for becoming a great socialist power. But the point is that now this slogan is painted in typically Maoist colors. It is based on the Maoist idea that it is China which embodies the ideals of Marxism-Leninism and controls the liberation movement, and this slogan is inextricably connected with the clearly expressed anti-Soviet line in Peking's foreign policy. In this sense, I would like to stress, there has been no change in Chinese policy.

[Shishkovskiy] Aleksandr Yevgeniyevich, what is the situation in the country now?

[Bovin] In my opinion, the situation is very tense. At the session of the National People's Congress of which we have spoken, much was said about the need to establish order everywhere, but there is a long way to go in this. A fierce political struggle is in progress. People who were banished during the Cultural Revolution and who have now risen from their political tombs, are burning with the desire for revenge on those who are to blame for their misfortunes. The "gang of four" is accused of having had, according to the Chinese saying, factories of steel truncheons and factories of [word indistinct], but the whole point is that these factories are now continuing to work at full blast; only the victims and torturers have changed places. It is impossible to say when all this will end. Certainly the great Chinese people deserve a better fate, but while Maoism retains a ruling position, while the anti-Soviet hysteria continues, while economic development is put at the service of hegemonistic aims, one should not expect actual, real changes in China.

Vatican Policy

[Shishkovskiy] Comrade Korkin, who lives in the settlement Belorechensk, in Usolskiy Rayon, Irkutskskaya Oblast, wonders why the Vatican is called a state within a state. What is the Vatican's attitude to the most acute problem of our times, the limitation of the arms race and disarmament? Here to answer you, comrades, is the Soviet television and radio correspondent in Rome, Valeriy Prostakov.

[Prostakov] Not a single tourist trip to Rome omits this spacious square surrounded on two sides by the colonnades of porticos, which form a single architectural whole with that world-famous monument of the Renaissance, St Peter's Cathedral.

While talking of the works of the great Italian masters--from Bramante and Raphael to Michaelangelo and Bernini--the guides rarely forget to emphasize that both the cathedral and the square do not lawfully belong to Italy, but to another state--the Vatican, the center of the Roman Catholic Church. While leaving St Peter's Square open to visitors, it has surrounded the rest of its territory of 44 hectares with a high fortified wall, a relic of the Middle Ages. Through that wall, the way is forbidden to outsiders: All the gates and approahces are manned by the Swiss Guard: 137 soldiers dressed in ornamental medieval costume and armed with pikes and halberds--such is the Vatican army. Its importance is, of course, purely symbolic: But it is not so very small when one realizes that the state's entire population is, according to official figures, 1,000 people.

The Vatican has its own newspaper, the L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, which reacts to all the most important events in Italian and international life, and its own radio station, a very powerful one, which also goes beyond religious topics. All powers in the Vatican are vested in the pope: It is an absolute monarchy. Current affairs are dealt with by a state secretariat, a kind of ministerial cabinet composed of the cardinals. One, Monsignor Casaroli, heads the church's Council for Public Affairs, which virtually amounts to the foreign ministry. His envoys, or papal nuncios as they are called, are accredited to the governments of 220 countries--not counting the cardinals, who head the local Catholic churches. Moreover, the papal throne is represented by permanent observers at many international organizations, starting with the UN and UNESCO and ending with, for instance, the OAS or the Inter-American Development Bank.

In an attempt to preserve its influence over the world's Catholic masses, which has noticeably weakened of late, the Vatican has been forced to reckon with the changes taking place in the world. It knows well what moves the people of various countries, and takes it into account in its policies. It pays great attention to the major problem of the times--that of peace and international security. John XXIII, the present pope's predecessor, spoke out in condemnation of the cold war and the arms race, and in favor of general and complete disarmament and of banning the atom bomb. Pope Paul VI now continues that line. In 1971, the Vatican adhered to the Moscow treaty on the nondissemination of nuclear arms; in 1975, Cardinal Casaroli attended the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and, on behalf of the pope of Rome, appended his signature to the final act. Last year, a Vatican spokesman was sent as an observer to New York to take part in the preparations for the special disarmament session of the UN General Assembly. Statements by both Paul VI himself and his officials lay particular emphasis on the importance of the final act of the all-European conference. At the Belgrade meeting of representatives of states participatory to the conference, Cardinal Silvestrini pointed out that the Vatican confirmed its interest in the more complete implementation of the provisions of the final act as a whole, including those parts of it concerning arms reductions.

Rhodesian Situation

[Shishkovskiy] We move on to our next topic: The situation in Rhodesia. The situation which has developed in Rhodesia since the Smith regime adopted the internal settlement plan, as the regime calls it, has caused serious concern among the independent African states. An emergency session of the UN Security Council, convened at the latters' request, has rejected that plan. What is the internal settlement, ask all the authors of letters on this topic. We have in our studio now PRAVDA observer Mikhail Konstantinovich Zenovich. Mikhail Konstantinovich, please.

[Zenovich] What is at stake is an agreement signed in Salisbury on 3 March, which provides for a fictitious transfer of power from the white racist government to representatives of the blacks.

According to that agreement, an internal administration is to be set up in Salisbury in the guise of an executive council to be chaired in turn by Ian Smith, the gang-boss of the white regime, and three African politicians who have signed the agreement--Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau. Under the terms of the agreement, power in the country must be handed over to the blacks by 31 December of this year. However in fact, as is indicated by other terms of the internal settlement, it remains in the hands of the white minority.

According to those terms, for example, the racists will retain control over such important levers of power as the civil service, army and police. Nor is the situation better in the legislative bodies, where white members will be able to apply their right of veto whenever they believe that an African initiative might prejudice their interests.

[Zenovich] The agreement has nothing to say about the privileges enjoyed in Rhodesia by foreign capital and local racists. Their leading positions in the country's economy still remain in force. In other words this internal settlement constitutes an attempt to perpetuate the colonialist and racist system in Rhodesia and foil a transfer of power to genuine representatives of the African people of Zimbabwe.

In this sense the Salisbury deal is, for the racists and their imperialist accomplices, a sort of trial balloon. In the event of its success they are not against repeating this internal settlement solution in Namibia. It is no accident that the Smith plan immediately met with the full approval of South African Prime Minister Vorster, a long-standing ally, who hastened to express a readiness for widespread cooperation with such a government on a neighborly basis. What is more, Vorster stated frankly that such cooperation would be forthcoming even in the event that the new regime does not obtain international recognition. In speaking about cooperation with the new regime, the Pretoria ringleaders make no secret of the fact that all this settlement farce has been played out with their participation and their approval.

The danger of the new Salisbury deal is revealed not only by the fact that it has been sanctioned by an immediate ally of Smith, but also because imperialist propaganda and certain Western figures are presenting it as some sort of stage in the process of political change in Rhodesia. That, for example, is how the Salisbury agreement has been described by a U.S. State Department spokesman.

To judge from comment in the Western press, the document which has been signed very nearly meets the requirements for the recognition of the independence of Zimbabwe, and therefore, it is claimed, could become the basis for the legalization of the existing regime there.

[Shishkovskiy] The matter, you know, is not limited to just a propaganda campaign.

[Zenovich] Complicated diplomatic maneuvers have already commenced to give the Salisbury deal the semblance of the most acceptable solution to the Rhodesian problem. In particular, one's attention is drawn to the present trip by Bishop Muzorewa, one of the participants of the deal with Smith, to London and Washington, where he is attempting to pave the way for recognition of the regime which bears an African signboard. Muzorewa, like the other participants in the criminal deal, are depicting matters as if further armed struggle against the racist system is no longer appropriate and as if it only remains for the Patriotic Front, which unites the fighters for Zimbabwe's independence, to lay down its arms and display patience and moderation.

[Shishkovskiy] Can one take such judgments and appeals seriously?

[Zenovich] Under the conditions of a settlement worked out by Muzorewa and company in conjunction with Smith, it is, in effect, a case of capitulation. It is apt to recall that it was precisely such a requirement--for a cessation of armed struggle--that the representatives of Britain and the United States attempted to impose on Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, the leaders of the Patriotic Front, during the Malta talks. It is natural that at that time also the front rejected this condition, which would be tantamount to suicide. Although the patriots believe that the only true path to the elimination of racist domination is armed struggle, the leaders of the front have stated that they have never neglected a peaceful settlement, which would save the people unnecessary sacrifices. The patriotic Front, they added, is not opposed to talks, but only favors talks that would decide the question of the mechanism for a genuine transfer of power to the African majority. This is why the front's leaders have resolutely rejected the plan for an internal settlement, noting that Smith has resorted to the assistance of puppets to perpetuate his criminal policy, which is contrary to the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe, and seeks to mislead public opinion.

This assessment is in full accord with the real facts of the present situation in Rhodesia. The implementation of the plan for an internal settlement can no longer deceive anyone. The most important concern today for the 6 million people of Zimbabwe is the armed struggle against racist domination. It has now spread throughout the country, including both urban and rural areas. Tens of thousands of fighters under the leadership of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front are now waging combat operations on five fronts encompassing three-quarters of the country's territory. It is not fortuitous that the Rhodesian command has banned the publication of reports from places where combat actions are being conducted, referring to them vaguely as operational zones. In order to deal with the patriots the Smith regime is resorting to the most nostrous punitive measures. A state of emergency has been introduced throughout the entire country. The Rhodesian racist authorities hastily set up a so-called curfew belt around Salisbury. Under the threat of being shot on the spot, the African population is prohibited from leaving their dwellings from dusk to dawn. Large-scale security force units, armor and police formations have been placed in the militarized buffer zone. Over half a million Africans have been driven into concentration camps, called protected hamlets, to isolate the insurgents from the aid and support of the population.

However, the repressions only reveal the profound internal crisis, or more accurately the doomed nature, of the racist regime, for methods of force are in effect its only remaining hope of holding onto power.

Nixon, Ford, Kissinger

[Shishkovskiy] Now let us answer (Yevfrosiniya Pavlovna Nepachenko) from Nikolayevskaya Oblast and Comrade (Korolev) from Zhdanov. Their questions deal with the fate of former Presidents of the United States Nixon and Ford as well as of Secretary of State Kissinger.

Gerald Ford heads the exchange fellowships program named after former President Eisenhower, takes part in broadcasts on NBC radio and television, and is writing his memoirs. Ford has again returned to active political life. Many observers believe that he will run for president in 1980. Ford is making use of his political career for commercial advertizing. As the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE reported recently, he will help advertize and sell new series of gold and silver collectors' coins marking important moments in the lives of American Presidents. Ford's assistant refused to say how large the fee was. However, he said that this was only one of many commercial contracts signed by the former President.

Richard Nixon, since his forced departure from the presidency, has been living in his villa in California, virtually without ever leaving.

The former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is now lecturing at Georgetown University. He is also doing scientific work at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Henry Kissinger is working on his memoirs, to be published by the Boston publishers Little, Brown and Company. Apart from this, Kissinger appears in a special program on NBC, with which he has concluded a 5-year contract. The anti-Soviet character of a number of his latest statements made both on television and in the press draws one's attention.

Avoiding Nuclear War

[Shishkovskiy] I have before me a letter from Yakov Stepanovich Seredin from Leningrad. He writes that on 10 October 1977 an agreement was signed between the governments of the USSR and Great Britain on averting the accidental outbreak of a nuclear war. What does the accidental outbreak of a nuclear war mean? We have familiarized Lev Semenovich Semeyko, section chief of the U.S. and Canada Institute attached to the USSR Academy of Sciences and candidate of military sciences, with your letter Comrade Seredin. He is now in the studio. Over to you, Lev Semenovich:

[Semeyko] The Soviet Union, guided by interests of strengthening peace and international security, concluded a number of important agreements in the 1970's providing for measures aimed at averting an accidental or nonsanctioned use of nuclear weapons. Similar agreements were concluded with the United States in 1971, with France in 1976, and with Britain quite recently. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of these agreements. To radically reduce the threat of a world nuclear conflict, a whole complex of varied and concerted international measures are necessary. It is important not only to achieve strict observance by all states of the principle of the nonuse of force or the threat of force in international relations, but also to exclude the very possibility of solving international disputes with the help of arms. What is required are measures which first and foremost would avert the premediated unleashing of a nuclear war. But it is also important to exclude its accidental outbreak. This is one of the dangerous possibilities.

What does this possibility mean? In principle one cannot exclude the possibility war caused by unforeseen accidents unless, of course, appropriate preventive measures are taken. Let us say that as a result of some technical snags in nuclear weapons delivery systems, a completely accidental nuclear explosion occurs on a country's territory, or that such an explosion has taken place as a result of nonsanctioned activities by service staff. In both cases the threat of the outbreak of a nuclear war would exist.

[Shishkovskiy] Can one assume that such cases are fully excluded?

[Semeyko] Postwar history testified that this is far from being the case. For instance, an event which took place in the United States in 1961 is very well known. It was then that a B-52 bomber accidentally dropped an atomic bomb of several megatons. It did not explode, thanks to the action of a safety mechanism. Six safety mechanisms were fitted on the bomb, but five failed to function. It was only the last--the sixth--that turned out to be in sound working order, and this saved North Carolina from huge destruction and loss of life.

[Shishkovskiy] And saved, one must presume, the whole world from unforseen international consequences. For the American leadership, especially then, during the cold war, could have taken the nuclear explosion, if it had occurred, as a Soviet nuclear attack.

[Semeyko] It would have been difficult to forecast their positions and actions in the acute situation that would have arisen. This incident is far from the only one. Let us recall the fall of four American hydrogen bombs on the territory of Spain or the four bombs of megaton capacity over Greenland. In sum, according to certain Western data, not less than 33 nuclear incidents took place between 1945 and 1968, which were connected with American nuclear conflict. But, you see, unless various international measures are taken to prevent such an extraordinarily dangerous situation there will be no guarantee whatsoever that any subsequent nuclear accident will not be the fuse for a world nuclear conflict.

[Shishkovskiy] Lev Semenovich, what is provided for in the agreements on preventing the accidental oubreak of a nuclear war?

[Semeyko] A commitment to implement and improve both organizational and technical measures directed at preventing the accidental or nonsanctioned use of nuclear weapons. The sides are bound to inform one another immediately about any accidental, nonsanctioned or other unexplained incident that might lead to the explosion of a military nuclear device and cause an incorrect interpretation of this explosion.

Measures for rendering harmless or destroying nuclear weapons used accidentally or without sanction as well as advance notification of planned missile launchings, if such launchings are carried out beyond their national borders in the direction of the other side, are also provided for in the Soviet-American agreement. In this way, the years of detente have marked a whole series of important agreements in this area. A sufficiently effective mechanism has been created for settling crisis situations. It played a particularly important role in 1973 when, as a result of international efforts, the development of the Near East conflict into a world nuclear conflict was averted.

At the recently ended 32d session of the UN General Assembly, it was precisely our country which brought up the subject of deepening and consolidating the relaxation of international tension and averting the threat of a nuclear war. The resolution submitted by the Soviet Union called on all states possessing nuclear arms, which had still not concluded an agreement on measures for preventing the threat of a nuclear war and for providing advance warning about an accidental or nonsanctioned use of nuclear arms, to conclude such agreements and to improve and develop existing international measures. The efforts of the Soviet Union to prevent a nuclear war meet with extensive international support and strengthen the confidence of people in the possibility of maintaining and strengthening peace.

[Shishkovskiy] With this we bid you farewell, comrades.

RACISM OF PRETORIA, SALISBURY, TEL AVIV REGIMES SCORED

LD201540Y Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--TASS commentator Aleksandr Bokhonko writes: The international day of struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination is observed on March 21 on the decision of the 21st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The disgraceful seats of racism and colonialism still exist in the world. These are, above all, the Pretoria and Salisbury regimes.

Trying to put off the hour of their inevitable fall, the South African and Rhodesian racialists resort to the use of arms to arrest the inexorable course of history, to suppress the struggle of the peoples of the Republic of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe for freedom and independence, for the restoration of their flouted rights. Brazenly defying the international community and acting with direct connivance of Western powers, NATO members, the racist regimes continue staging armed provocations and acts of aggression against sovereign independent African states--Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and Botswana.

Israel continues occupying Arab lands and conducts the policy of arbitrariness and wholesale reprisals with regard to Arab population. This policy of the Tel Aviv Zionist rulers is nothing but practical manifestation of racism. It is not accidental that the United Nations General Assembly described Zionism as a form of racial discrimination.

It is characteristic that the authorities of Pretoria, Salisbury and Tel Aviv are backed by imperialist powers whose officials talk so much of late about protection of human rights. What is the real value of their propaganda statements can be seen from the fact that vast amounts of aid from the West are given precisely to racialist states. NATO countries supplied to the Republic of South Africa three billion dollars worth of armaments over a number of years. Now, after the United Nations imposed an embargo on arms deliveries to racists, Western powers continue supplying them with armaments in a secret way, using third countries. A particular role is assigned in this to Israel, which receives from the United States great amounts of the latest weapons and also produces them on U.S. licenses. There exists the military axis Tel Aviv-Pretoria which is directed against national liberation movements and is dangerous to peoples.

But the present-day situation is not in favor of the racist regimes and its Western patrons. The process of the relaxation of international tensions, positive changes in the international arena promote further struggle of peoples for final liquidation of racial discrimination. On the side of these peoples is solidarity of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, of all peaceful and progressive forces of the world. The world public demands ever stronger final elimination of all forms of racism and apartheid which are gross violations of fundamental human rights, of the United Nations principles and charter, and constitute a constant threat to peace and security.

KOSYGIN GREETS WORLD MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

LD171616Y Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 16 TASS--The chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Aleksey Kosygin, congratulated cordially the secretary general of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), Ch. R. Srivastava, on the 20th anniversary of the organization and the establishment of world sea day.

Since the foundation of this U.N. international specialised organization, covering over one hundred states, the Soviet Union has been actively participating in its activities and demonstrating respect and understanding in its attitude towards the noble tasks and aims of IMCO, aimed at promoting cooperation in the development and application by all countries of uniform international norms and standards in securing safety at sea, increasing shipping efficiency and protecting sea from pollution, says Aleksey Kosygin in his telegram.

CARTER SPEECH RETURNS TO DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION POLICY

LD211104Y Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] President Carter, in his address on Friday at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, spoke of some important aspects of American-Soviet relations. Vladislav Kozyakov has been studying the speech. Here are his comments:

The President was largely concerned with national security and when he spoke of his wish to prevent a nuclear war and cooperate with the Soviet Union and other countries in relaxing tension, he saw the world as it really is. Recent decades have shown the advantages of better relations between the United States and the Soviet Union for worldwide peace and security. When tension mounted the danger of nuclear war mounted too, but as soon as the Soviet Union and the United States reached some fundamental agreement--in 1972, 73, and 74,--the international situation improved and the danger of nuclear war diminished.

What President Carter said on Friday about cooperation with the Soviet Union, however, is no more than a repetition of earlier statements in a most general form. The stress was not at all on reaffirming the policy proclaimed earlier of expanding relations with the Soviet Union and guaranteeing America's security through talks and agreements to limit arms. The President put far more emphasis on threats against other countries. The purpose seemed to be to sharpen international tension. The President oriented America not to mutually acceptable agreements with other nations but to large-scale military preparations and the development of new weapons, notably strategic systems.

Why is it American policy makers favor this dangerous course? Again there is talk about a Soviet threat and Soviet interference; again these mists are used to cover up American moves to spend more on military preparations and push the arms race. The United States appears to be returning to the concepts that dominated administration policy during the years of confrontation and cold war, concepts that long ago proved futile and dangerous.

President Carter claimed the Soviet Union shows an inclination to intervene in African affairs. This distortion of Soviet policy has the purpose of discrediting the Soviet Union and in some measure justifying America's moves to speed the arms build up. In reality the Soviet Union does not pursue selfish interests in any part of the world. It has consistently urged the peaceful adjustment of local conflicts and opposed acts of aggression and attempts to recarve frontiers. This has been the purpose of the Soviet aid to Ethiopia.

It is an ominous sign that the United States speaks of a major reassessment of national military strategy. This can only mean an intention to speed up the arms race at a time when there is some progress at the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks. It is no secret that groups in the United States are campaigning vigorously against SALT-II. Obviously it was to please these groups, especially the military-industrial complex, that the President spoke of a reassessment of military strategy and conventional weapons. Signicantly, the President made an inspection tour of the nuclear aircraft carrier Eisenhower immediately after his announcement of a major reassessment of military strategy. American news analysts say the Pentagon views the inspection as administration's support for military construction program.

It is to be regretted that American political leaders are moving farther and farther from the only sure way of guaranteeing worldwide peace and security--that is, to end the arms race and develop all-round parity cooperation between nations.

Creates Alarm

LD201552Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Viktor Glazunov commentary]

[Text] International relations are at a crossroads, yet there is still no final answer as to what route humanity will choose--the road of easing international tension and promoting trust and cooperation, or the path of growing shows of strength, suspicion and weapon stockpiling. Humanity's future hinges on what choice we make.

The American President's speech has created alarm because the major reassessment of U.S. national defense strategy that he talked about shifts the accent from arms limitation and reduction of tension to a policy of threats and promotion of tension. The President spoke about developing a number of new strategic and conventional weapon systems in the United States, although Soviet-American negotiations are underway to conclude a new treaty on strategic arms limitation. Yet President Carter promised during the election campaign to do everything possible to do away with nuclear weapons and prevent a nuclear war. But the recent speech seems to indicate the President is backing away from any solution of these crucial problems.

The departure from original promises warrants and explanation, so the President has resorted to the worn-out claim of a Soviet military threat. Again the United States is insisting it won't let anyone gain military superiority. Yet such statements make it clear that the United States seeks superiority itself. It was the United States, and not the Soviet Union, that began the policy to develop modern weapons, including neutron bombs. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, proposes that all countries agree not to produce neutron weapons. Furthermore, the USSR proposes banning the production of all nuclear weapons in order to begin reducing stockpiles and finally to disarm.

In order to justify this hardline policy, the President referred to the situation in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. But Israel, which is armed with U.S. weapons, is holding on to occupied Arab land and penetrating into Lebanon, and is therefore aggravating an already explosive situation. But the Soviet Union continues to call for settling the Middle East problem at negotiations that would consider the interest of all participants. And in the Horn of Africa the United States has taken sides with the Somali aggressor, while the USSR supports Ethiopia, the victim of aggression. Who is acting in keeping with international law?

Washington is trying very hard to shift U.S. foreign policy to a policy of threats and promotion of tension, justified by distortions and falsehood. If this shift is put into practice, the world faces the most serious of consequences. The Soviet Union is against such a turn of events. Relaxation of international tension is the only sensible alternative. Any other way will at best lead to balancing on the edge of war.

SECRETARY BROWN BACKS SCHLESINGER COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY

LD201353Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Washington, 16 March TASS--The Pentagon is continuing to elaborate the aggressive doctrines of "counterforce" and "limited nuclear war," at the basis of which lies the stockpiling of the potential for inflicting a "preemptive nuclear strike."

These bellicose concepts were voiced in public for the first time in 197[illegible] by the then Defense Secretary J. Schlesinger and were seized upon enthusiastically by his successors. According to the evidence of the New York TIMES, the present defense secretary, H. Brown, has become a supporter of them.

Under Brown's leadership the Pentagon is now reviewing its emergency plans.

According to the Washington POST, the Pentagon plans give particular emphasis to boosting military might in Western Europe and to the deployment in that region of improved nuclear warheads, neutron bombs and cruise missiles.

BEGIN VISIT DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN U.S. SUPPORT, BACKING

LD201326Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "On Menahem Begin's Visit to the United States"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who has arrived in the United States for a 3-day visit, said that he will discuss with U.S. President Carter the question of what he termed Israel's security. At the same time, Begin refrained from saying anything about the UN Security Council resolution. Many political observers interpret such a declaration by Begin as a sign of his conviction that the United States will not, in fact, call for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, as the UN Security Council resolution stipulates.

Something else is also obvious: Begin has failed to carry with him to his American protectors anything new concerning a Middle East settlement. This was frankly underlined by the New York TIMES when it said that there is no sign that Begin changed his viewpoints or formulated any compromise solution before his arrival in Washington. It therefore becomes evident that Tel Aviv and Washington are intent on further coordinating their efforts, either with regard to the events now taking place in the Lebanese arena or to questions involved in the U.S.-Israeli attempts to impose a surrender solution on the Arabs in a Middle East settlement.

A number of Arab papers today carried articles about the U.S.-Israeli conspiracies. The Damascus paper AL-BA'TH, for example, said: Not content with failing to condemn the aggressors, America went further, supporting their false claims of the need to guarantee Israel's security, at the expence of other people's territories. This was also stressed in the extraordinary meeting of the special committee of the central council of the Lebanese nationalist forces. Participants in this meeting stressed that the Israeli aggression has taken the shape of a real war, due to the open collusion and blatant support given by U.S. imperialism.

For its part, the permanent secretariat of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization emphasized that the ruling circles in Israel could not have conducted such a policy had it not been for the economic, political and military support they obtain from world, particularly U.S. imperialism.

It is beyond any doubt that Israeli Prime Minister Begin has gone to America to strengthen the support and backing he gets from his U.S. protectors.

WEIZMAN ARMS ASSISTANCE TRIP TO U.S. VERY SUCCESSFUL

LD171822Y Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 17 TASS--The United States' military and economic aid to Israel largely contributes to the build-up of Tel Aviv's military arsenal.

Exactly that aid along with Washington's political support that makes it possible for the Israeli leaders to torpedo the process of the quest for a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. Mainly thanks to American military aid, which in the past seven years amounted to more than 7,000 million dollars, Israel, according to press reports, now has 600 combat planes, 3,000 tanks, 3,500 armoured carriers. Israel was supplied from the United States with Lance missiles, electronic and other equipment. Israel will soon get 90 American F-15 and F-16 fighter planes. The military industry of Israel itself is being expanded with direct participation of the U.S. military-industrial complex. American firms have helped start at Israeli plants the manufacture of the Chariot tank, equipped with an American engine. The Israeli fighter Kfir also has an American engine.

A plan of further modernisation and the build-up of Israel's armed forces was discussed in the course of the recent visit of the Israeli Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizmann to Washington. Discussed, specifically, was delivery to Israel in the next few years of 13,500 million dollars' worth of armaments, including most up-to-date combat planes, tanks, selfpropelled artillery, aircushion ships. Upon completion of the visit, Weizmann expressed firm confidence that the United States will undertake an obligation concerning further deliveries of American arms to Israel.

The United States actually sanctioned Tel Aviv's use of American arms for interference in the south of Lebanon yet in the previous conflicts. A representative of the Department of State said in August 1977 that this is not a violation of any law or agreement between the United States and Israel. The Israeli military is thus given unlimited possibilities of using American armaments in agressive actions against Arab countries. The testimony of (?this) is Israel's current downright aggression against southern Lebanon, in the course of which Palestinians are being exterminated with the help of tanks and planes made in the United States.

U.S. MILITARY IN ASIA PROTECTS IMPERIALIST INTERESTS

LD171946Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1500 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The United States has sent [word indistinct] four battleships to the Indian Ocean to support its squadron there. Our commentary has been prepared by Aleksey Pavlov:

The Western news media have launched a whole campaign to justify this move to the Pentagon. They claim America pursues one goal, namely to balance what they describe as Soviet presence in the southern seas. It's a pity some groups in Asia have taken this story for granted. The Pakistan TIMES newspaper speaks of these maneuvres of the United States fleet as part of rivalry with the Soviet Union. The paper claims there's a mere leveling of forces in Asia. As I said, the Pakistan TIMES has taken this rivalry story for granted, but who has made this story up?

When the United States Defense Secretary Harold Brown recently spoke in Los Angeles his version sounded just as untrue. Unlike the United States, the Soviet Union has never had military bases in the Indian Ocean and has never built military projects on its coasts or islands. On the contrary, the Soviet Union has suggested that America should follow its example.

Those who claim the Soviet Union and America make the same policy distort the truth. What is really building up tension in Asia is the United States drive to strengthen domination and control. As to the ostensible rivalry, the talk about it is intended to divert the public's attention from America's widescale military preparations in Asia, the preparations that threaten peace in Asia.

Well, in his Los Angeles speech, Defense Secretary Brown noted his country would not only keep its military presence in Asia but also consolidate its impressive forces in the continent. Characteristically, Brown admitted his country had very impressive forces in Asia. The United States, he said, will deploy new systems of weapon in the western part of the Pacific during the coming 5 years. Among these systems are the Trident nuclear submarine, the cruise missile, the B-52 bomber, the F-14 fighter for aircraft carriers, the F-15 fighter for air squadrons and early warning and control systems. The defense secretary added: His country would modernize and increase its Pacific fleet. But newspapers say the United States has hundreds of military bases in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean and that there are 143,500 American officers and men in these bases in Japan and South Korea, the Philippines and Australia, the Guam Island and also in the United States 7th Fleet.

Meanwhile the United States has been building or expanding bases in the Masirah Island in the Arabian Sea, in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, in (Tinian), Saipan and Kwajalein in Micronesia and some in Australia. Besides, it still hopes to return its bases in Thailand. The American news media have made it clear the United States can attack any point in Asia from these bases. According to Brown, America's Pacific strategy aims to build up the strategic nuclear rocket forces, increase the flow of armaments to South Korea and involve Japan in the United States military efforts in east and Southeast Asia. Within the framework of this strategy and of CENTO, the United States and its allies more often hold large troop manouvers. What aim do these military preparations serve? Obviously they are part of America's global strategic plans. The Pentagon chief has stressed South Asia is one military flank of NATO. The other being West Europe. Moreover, Washington officials have admitted the Pentagon fleet and bases are intended to protect American interests in Asia. What interests, we may ask? The interests of imperialist groups, those who would like their country to play the role of a guardian and policeman in Asia. But the United States is too late with claims of this kind.

AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ONLY AGGRAVATES TENSION

LD202100Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary by Aleksandr Druzhinin, political observer of Central Television and All-Union Radio]

[Text] Official Washington has again been stepping up its propaganda campaign in defense of so-called human rights in socialist countries. Judging from statements by highly placed U.S. politicians this completely far fetched problem will continue to remain at the center of U.S. foreign policy.

However, how is one to reconcile this hue and cry, these shameless attempts to present the United States as a kind of arbiter on the question of human rights, with the facts which arouse indignation in the whole world? Indeed, while certain Washington politicians are proclaiming themselves to be champions of human rights, it is precisely in the United States that George [as heard] Harris, the fighter for civil rights, is languishing in prison awaiting electrocution. Members of the Wilmington 10 are still behind bars. They were imprisoned not for committing crimes but for their political conviction.

While Washington lays claim to straightening affairs beyond U.S. borders, in the United States itself, according to the government commission that studies the situation of national minorities, unemployment, lack of rights and racism undermine constitutional freedoms and the rights of millions of Americans. What kind of human rights can one talk about in a country where a man's main right--the right to work--does not exist?

A few days ago the House of Representatives adopted the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, which formalizes this right. However, even in Washington political circles it is called a toothless bill because it does not provide Americans with any guarantees of work. Moreover, this bill in fact legalizes the level of the army of unemployed at 4 percent. However, even this level is scheduled for 1983.

On Saturday, a national demonstration in defense of human rights in the United States was held in Washington. The rights of man begin at home. This was its slogan. This is echoed by the recent statement made in the Washington STAR, which said that any U.S. claims to the laurels of the defender of human rights are, at the very least, unfounded if one considers the fact that the administration is doing very little to alleviate the situation of the oppressed in the United States itself. The question arises why, then, is Washington engaged in a hue and cry about human rights in countries which have human rights that U.S. working people would not even dare dream about?

We believe that the reply to this question is clear: It is done in order to avoid the discussion of the main questions of the present international situation, such as disarmament, strengthening of European security and expansion of cooperation among people. They are trying to transform one of the provisions of the final act of the all-European conference pertaining to humanitarian problems into a tool of U.S. interference in the affairs of socialist states and other countries of the world. Is it not time for those who pursue such policy to ponder its consequences? Only the aggravation of international tension and undermining of the process of detente could be the result of such a policy.

LOCKHEED INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL, SECRET EXPORTS TO ROK

LD171326Y Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 17 TASS--The U.S. aircraft corporation Lockheed, one of the major [companies] in the U.S. military-industrial complex, again turned out to be involved in a big political scandal. It turned out that the corporation, without the knowledge of American authorities, engaged in secret sales of arms and ammunition to the dictatorial South Korean regime. Documents which expose the corporation and indicate that the corporation assisted Seoul in the construction of a plant for the production of rocket propellant of its own were discovered during a search made by federal agents at the Lockheed headquarters in Washington and California. According to the U.S. laws, rockets, ballistic projectiles or technical data connected with their production may be exported only with the knowledge and permission of the State Department. But laws, as is known, have never been an obstacle for U.S. monopolies.

At one time, Lockheed won notoriety when the case of multimillion bribes and pays-off to foreign political figures, with whose help the corporation boosted the sales of its products on international markets, came to light. At that time, despite the disclosures of the corporation's criminal machinations, it practically came off scatheless. Moreover, the international scandal round the Lockheed case in no way prevented the American Government from granting big easy-term subsidies to the corporation when its financial affairs were temporarily shaken. This time Lockheed is facing a penalty for the breach of law. But what is a fine to the corporation which rakes millions of dollars in unlawful machinations.

PEKING USES EEC AS BACK DOOR TO NATO, U.S. HARDWARE

LD210835Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent N. Polyanov article: "The Back Way"]

[Text] Bonn--Ottobrun Bei Muenchen is a small town. One of the main West European weapons factories--Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm--is located here. Its plants, which equip NATO's arsenals with aircraft, helicopters and missiles, are closed to visitors. Recently, however, the plants admitted eight visitors dressed in Peking-style dark blue tunics. They were received with honor. They were shown the concern's "holy of holies." A few days later they returned home with a contract for delivery of military helicopters, armed with hot guided missiles, to China.

A chance episode? No, a policy with a comprehensive aim. The Maoists are gradually exploring the possibility of equipping themselves with modern military hardware from the West. They are quietly preparing to enter into a political pact with the Atlantic alliance on the assumption that the alliance can easily poison the international climate. They will not act openly and directly; they fear that their true role as provocateurs will be revealed to the world. That is why they choose the "back way" into NATO--through the Common Market, all of whose members, with the exception of Ireland, belong to the Atlantic bloc. Peking is also eager to join the Nine for other reasons, which could be revealed by the same arms traders, including the sinister Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm. Recently, its coowner, Ludwig Boelkow, left for Peking accompanied by West German colleagues familiar with arms trade. Officially, he went to the opening of the West German Tekhnogermania exhibition, but in fact he was there for delicate military and commercial talks. He prudently exhibited a model of the latest versatile Tornado aircraft. Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm not only assists production of this aircraft but is, if you will, the godmother of the plane. It promises to become the most profitable product of the Ottobrun plants--the fighter-bomber has broken all cost records. However, experts insist that it is not easy to sell such a plane to China. British and Italian companies, both members of the Nine, are also involved in its production. If Peking became close to the Common Market, it would be another matter....

Peking got closer. A 5-year trade agreement was recently signed with the Common Market which will be automatically extended for subsequent 5-year periods. The agreement grants the Maoists "most-favored-nation status." This gives weapons concerns (not only West German) greater hopes of business with China, and the Maoists--prospects for obtaining access to the precious arsenals. It is not so much commercial considerations that motivate both sides as political ones. Currently, trade with China comprises less than 1 percent of the Nine's foreign economic operations. However, if it was possible to calculate China's share in NATO's strategic plans, the corresponding percentage would probably be much more impressive. NATO headquarters in Brussels has ample reason to openly call for China's speedy rearmament and is prepared to remove the limitations on strategic goods for this purpose.

One wonders: Was it that long ago that the Maoists denounced the Nine, sometimes claiming it to be a NATO military and economic base, sometimes comparing its activity with "the dying convulsions of imperialism"? Peking's anger reached everyone who proposed a simple normalization of mutual trade relations between China and the West. Suddenly, a reversal. Why? Because the Maoists are entering the final transition from confrontation to partnership with their former political opponents. And, of course, they are receiving understanding and support from the leaders of the Atlantic alliance. If the Peking leaders intend to use NATO in their anti-Soviet strategy, NATO hopes to use Peking in its militarist policy in Europe and elsewhere. Moreover, Peking and NATO headquarters are also cooperating increasingly in attempts to suppress the primary movements of the age. Recent events in Angola are a convincing example. On one side of the barricades were Angolan patriots fighting for their country's independence, and on the other--Peking henchmen and NATO mercenaries.

Peking's agreement with the Common Market, which was well-received in reactionary circles, is only one link in the Maoists' actions against detente. By entering into increasingly close relations with militarist and revanchist circles in West Europe, they are in fact encouraging a further arms race and a return to the cold war. It is no wonder that the differences between the Peking leaders and NATO generals have almost completely disappeared. Both are insisting on the "Soviet threat" and reviling those Western statesmen who advocate a realistic course in mutual relations between Western capitals and the socialist community.

Peking has planned a new propaganda fabrication to coincide with its rapprochement with the Common Market--a fabrication which, incidentally, could have been created with equal success by the Atlantic bloc. An absurd story about the "encirclement of Europe by the Soviet Union" has been released. Its originators claim that the Soviet Union intends to reach the Cape of Good Hope and the Persian Gulf in order to "subsequently engulf Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa." When hearing such fables, the NATO generals rub their hands with glee: Recently, they themselves have persistently extended their military activity south of the Tropic of Cancer, far beyond the zone fixed in the North Atlantic treaty. Now, Maoists appear with their diversionary maneuver. How can you help being touched....

These are some of the hidden details of Peking's deal with the Common Market. We may expect this deal to be followed by more steps aimed at destroying the dialog between the socialist community and the West and at exacerbating international tension. The conservative West German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE concludes that the EEC is a "suitable ally" for the Maoists with good reason. Chinese diplomacy, the newspaper continues, is gambling on "ties of association through NATO with the United States." This formula is now circulated among the Atlanticists: "Our opponents' opponents could become interesting partners for us." It was precisely this formula that was recently recalled by one of Strauss' henchmen, the chief of the BAYERN KURIER newspaper. After visiting China with his boss, he declared at a fashionable party in the Munich Bayerischer Hof hotel that for West European rightwingers, the Maoists are like manna from heaven. They have appeared just in time to take part in a crusade against communism.

The calculations are apparently dangerous but they have been developed without Europe's real masters. They did not devote themselves to eliminating the cold war only to allow the Atlanticists, with Peking's help, to return to the old path of adventurism.

NEDELYA TRACES PRC SUPPORT OF SOMALI 'AGGRESSOR'

LD210839 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 11, Signed to Press 16 March 1978, carries on page 11 a 1,500-word article entitled "Peking and the Horn of Africa" by Vsevolod Sofinskiy and Anatoliy Khazanov, which describes the history of Chinese relations with Africa, stressing Peking's role "alongside forces of international reaction" in the "joint struggle against revolutionary African regimes and the expansion of cooperation between the developing states and the Soviet Union and other socialist countries."

The article concentrates particularly on PRC policy concerning the Horn of Africa, saying that "striving to insure its influence and control over the Western gates to the Indian Ocean, Peking selected Somalia at the end of the fifties as one of the first targets of its expansion in Africa; it was precisely from there that the Maoists calculated on mounting an offensive in north and east Africa." At that time, the article maintains, the Maoists supported the Greater Somali League, whose program called for reunification of territories populated by Somalis. In 1959, the Chinese "opened one of the largest embassies in Africa, staffed with numerous personnel."

The article says that "in 1963 in connection with Somali territorial cl- on Ethiopia and Kenya, relations between those states became extremely acute and "the PRC blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of Ethiopia." According to the article many separatists underwent military training in China. It continues: "When Somalia attacked Ethiopia last summer with the aim of severing Ogaden, the PRC supported the aggressor. The events in the Horn of Africa were the direct result of collusion between the imperialist powers and reactionary Arab regimes and the PRC leadership." The article says that in May 1977, Peking offered Somalia tanks and other military equipment and at the end of July, when fighting broke out in Ogaden, repeated its offer. At the end of 1977 and beginning of 1978 the Somali army was equipped with Chinese weapons." Meanwhile, the article asserts, Peking has stepped up its anti-Soviet "slander campaign": "In January and February of this year alone, more than 100 slanderous anti-Soviet materials on African subjects have appeared in the Chinese central press."

PRC NUCLEAR TEST, MILITARIZATION PLAN EXAMINED

OW191202Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 16 Mar 78 OW

[Mulatov commentary]

[Excerpts] For years, China has been the only country in the world to perform atmospheric nuclear tests. These atmospheric explosions seriously harm people and the environment. Following the Chinese authorities' instructions, another nuclear test was conducted in the Lop Nor area on 15 March. So far, no concrete information measuring the harm done by the latest nuclear test to the peoples of China and its neighbors has been obtained. Nevertheless, everyone knows that this test will seriously affect the Chinese workers and their environment. We must also note that Japan, separated from China by only a narrow strip of water, and the United States, separated from China by the largest ocean in the world, have both detected sudden increases of radioactivity in the soil, water and the animal and botanical life in their countries each time China has conducted nuclear tests. They have even discovered that infant mortality was sharply increased in some areas due to increased radioactivity in the atmosphere.

Therefore, it's no wonder that the governments and officials of Mongolia, Japan, Nepal, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Australia and other countries have repeatedly voiced their opposition to China's hazardous atmospheric nuclear tests. For instance, after China conducted its latest nuclear explosion, a Nepalese paper [name indistinct] said: "China's atmospheric nuclear tests have not only intensified international tension but have also poisoned the atmosphere with radioactive fallouts which endanger the health of the world's people. The Chinese leaders' latest atmospheric nuclear explosion has again shown that they totally disregard the aspirations of people of all countries."

The Peking leaders have attacked the Moscow treaty banning nuclear tests in three specific areas, which has the support of nearly all countries of the world and has been in effect for 15 years. The Peking leaders have also vigorously vilified the Soviet proposals for banning all nuclear tests, including underground nuclear tests. Obviously, they have taken this position in order to (?obtain) conditions for carrying out a policy which is detrimental to the Chinese people and all of mankind.

All major newspapers in China on 15 March published an article signed by Yeh Chien-ying. This article proves that the Chinese leaders have realized that vigorous efforts to carry out militarization are virtually incompatible with modernization of agriculture, industry and science and technology. It must be noted that, fearing the possible dissatisfaction of the Chinese people, this article intimidated them by saying that "social-imperialism and imperialism are bound to seize every opportunity to sabotage our plan to build China into a modern and powerful socialist country." Slandering the motherland of the October revolution, the Peking leaders have concocted various (?fabrications). Additionally, the Chinese leaders have apparently anticipated serious difficulties in their economic construction. Therefore, they are trying to muster excuses beforehand to justify any failures that might occur in economic construction. In order to disclaim responsibility in the future, the Peking leaders are again making outcries about a Soviet threat.

CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE ASEAN REVEALED

OW210455Y Moscow in Mandarin to China 1030 GMT 19 Mar 78 OW

[Nikolayev commentary: "Why does Peking Flatter the Association of Southeast Asian Nations?"]

[Text] The general public knows that during his recent official visit to the Philippines, Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien did his best to flatter the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] of which the Republic of the Philippines is a member. He said, for instance, that Peking would support the ASEAN countries' struggle to safeguard independence and sovereignty. At the same time, he tried to slander the Soviet Union's policy toward Southeast Asian countries.

In recent months, Peking officials have frequently flattered ASEAN, which was described by Chinese newspapers several years ago as a sinister tool used by imperialism to encroach on Southeast Asia. The Chinese press and broadcasts as well as statements by Chinese officials invariably express great concern about the interests and prosperity of ASEAN, which is composed of five countries south of China. ASEAN's interests are being threatened by the Soviet Union, NCNA has said. It charged that Southeast Asia has suffered Soviet hegemonic aggression. It made the charge in an attempt to frustrate ASEAN's proposal to establish a peaceful, independent, and neutral zone in the Southeast Asian region.

Peking has tried to label the Soviet Union as an expansionist nation moving into Southeast Asia. But people in that region who are well informed about the situation do not accept Peking's assertion because they know that the present trade and cultural relations between the Soviet Union and Southeast Asia has been described by the anti-Soviet elements as concrete proof of a Soviet plan for expansion. Peking has even alleged that the Soviet maritime fleet's operation between Southeast Asian countries and Western Europe is a manifestation of Soviet hegemonism at work. Thus, it is only natural that people in Southeast Asia pay no attention to these Maoist charges since they recognize that what Peking views as criminal acts are only normal bilateral activities between sovereign states.

Chinese propagandists further charge that the Soviet Union denounced the ASEAN countries' proposal to establish a peaceful, independent and neutral zone in Southeast Asia. This is absurd. Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said ASEAN'S proposal was one of the most inspired proposals ever made, demonstrating concern for peace and the future of Asia. The general public also knows that Comrade Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, said: We respect the proposals by Asian countries for the interest of peace, including the establishment of a peace zone in the Indian Ocean and the proposal for the neutralization of Southeast Asia.

The Asian countries' proposals conform with the fundamental principles of Soviet foreign policy. Thus, the USSR has endorsed the countries' proposals. The Soviet Union considers its main task in the international arena to be the improving of the international situation and the strengthening of world peace and security. This principle applies to all areas, including Southeast Asia where wars of destruction were waged for decades. For this reason, the Soviet people welcome the refusal of ASEAN leaders to accept the attempts of external forces to persuade them to adopt an antagonistic policy toward socialist countries.

The recent statement by Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik is noteworthy. In the statement, Malik strongly refuted the nonsense fabricated and spread by the imperialist organs that Socialist Vietnam constitutes a threat to Indonesia and other ASEAN countries. He called for neighborly relations and cooperation between ASEAN countries and the SRV and said: We should popularize the Helsinki principles in Southeast Asia and then throughout Asia.

Chinese leaders are not content, of course, with these developments because Chinese leaders are dreaming about a great upheaval across Asia and are doing their best to undermine the international situation and create new tensions in order to pull the world back into the cold war period.

Chinese leaders have always tried to smear the Helsinki principles as narcotics with which the Soviet Union wants to dope the people of various countries before it can use force to enslave them. If we analyze Peking's attack on Soviet foreign policy--which always stands for a defense of peace in Asia and the rest of the world--we can easily see the Chinese leaders' purpose in unleashing the attack.

Peking's agitators have thought that their attack on Soviet foreign policy can sabotage international detente and create an atmosphere that may lead to a new armed conflict. The Chinese propaganda machine's efforts to smear the Soviet Union for advancing a policy of expansion in Southeast Asia are designed to serve Peking's goal, which is incompatible with the interests of the Asian people, including the Chinese people. Thus, Peking attempts by any means to present itself as the defender of the interests and sovereignty of the ASEAN countries.

PRC, NOT USSR, GUILTY OF HEGEMONY IN ASIA

LD201624Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1130 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Oleg Aliyev, an expert on Chinese affairs, writes about the latest session of the National People's Congress, the Chinese parliament:

Among the foreign policy aims as outlined by Premier Hua Kuo-feng at the parliamentary session, the central one is a wide single front against hegemonism. Antihegemony struggle is a point in the Chinese Constitution and the subject of many official statements by Chinese diplomats and propagandists. So what is hegemony as Peking sees it?

In a talk with a Japanese delegation a few months ago, a Chinese Government official said that the hegemony implied primarily aggression, attempts to establish domination and subversive acts against sovereign states. Well, one would find it hard not to agree with that definition. If that is so one is completely justified in calling for a war against hegemony, attempts at which yet take place in various parts of the world. But this is not the case with Peking. The point is that when they speak about a battle against hegemony, the Peking leaders do not mean a battle against aggression and subversive activities. What they mean is to turn to account the people's natural abhorence of hegemonism. To put in plain words, Peking wants to set up a worldwide front against the Soviet Union which they see as the chief source of hegemonism.

Peking does not mean to fight against the hegemonistic policy of imperialist states towards the developing nations. Take Asia for one. Do you know of Moscow at any time staging aggression against an Asian country? Do you know of Moscow backing antigovernment activities in any Asian states? There's hardly anyone in his right mind to answer yes to those questions. Not so if I ask you these questions about Peking.

Curiously, Peking policy nicely fits, at least it seems to fit, in the framework of hegemonism as defined by the Chinese themselves. Behind the anti-Soviet noises, the Peking leaders hope to screen their antisocialist schemes, schemes for Chinese control over the whole world and primarily Asia. It seems to me though that Peking underestimates the political vision of Asian leaders and the will of Asian nations for political and economic independence.

EAST EUROPE

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN SEND GREETINGS TO BULGARIAN COUNTERPARTS

LD201331Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Comrade Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council;

To Comrade Stanko Todorov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers:

Dear Comrades, on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers and the whole Soviet people, and from ourselves personally, we offer heartfelt congratulations to you, the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the State Council and the Council of Ministers of the republic and to the whole fraternal Bulgarian people, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The 1948 treaty based on the immovable principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism has become an active instrument in Soviet-Bulgarian political, economic and cultural cooperation and serves as a firm foundation for the all-round development of truly fraternal relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The new treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual aid between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 12 May 1967, which responds to the increased level of relations between the USSR and Bulgaria and opens up broad possibilities for them to be widened and deepened, was a direct continuation of the first Soviet-Bulgarian treaty.

At the international level, Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation has become an important link in the system of multilateral connections among the socialist states. It responds to the interests of the whole socialist community, the interests of international detente, the strengthening of peace and security in Europe and the whole world.

The new relations which have developed between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria reflect the logical process of gradual drawing-together [solizheniye] of the countries of socialism. This was reaffirmed with full force during the visit to the Soviet Union in 1977 of a Bulgarian party and government delegation.

Soviet communists and the entire Soviet people value highly the fraternal Soviet-Bulgarian alliance and hold dear these great achievements, and are filled with the determination to continue consistently to strengthen the traditional friendship between our people, the cooperation between the CPSU and the Bulgarian Communist Party, between the USSR and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in the name of the triumph of the cause of peace and socialism.

We wish you, dear friends, and all Bulgarian people new successes in fulfilling the decisions of the 11th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, in implementing the program of building an advanced socialist society and in the struggle for peace and international security.

May the inviolable Soviet-Bulgarian friendship grow stronger and flourish!

[Signed] L. Brezhnev, A. Kosygin.

Anniversary Hailed

LD310947Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Sofia, 16 March TASS--The working people of Socialist Bulgaria are celebrating extensively the 30th anniversary of the signing of the first treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the USSR and Bulgaria.

The treaty, signed 18 March 1948 and based on the principles of proletarian internationalism, was of immense significance for the establishment and development of the young republic. It became a reliable guarantee of Bulgaria's sovereignty and national independence, created the conditions for a restructuring of the national economy on socialist principles and for its dynamic development and strengthened the friendship and fraternity between the people of Bulgaria and the USSR.

Soviet-Bulgarian relations were defined with extreme accuracy by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, when he called them "socialist internationalism in action."

The last three decades are unparalleled in Bulgaria's history in terms of the scale of imposing transformations. In these years the republic has joined the ranks of economically developed countries.

All Bulgaria's successes are inextricably connected with the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union. The greater part of the enterprises determining the country's present-day appearance were constructed with the help of the USSR. In the present 5-year period alone the Soviet Union will give Bulgaria technical assistance in the construction and modernization of more than 130 industrial projects. At present more than 90 agreements on economic, scientific and technical cooperation have been concluded between Bulgaria and the USSR.

Broad and fruitful contacts exist between the two countries in the spheres of science and technology, culture and education.

The people of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union live by the laws of friendship and fraternity. A course of increasingly close cooperation, rapprochement and integration is being steadily implemented by the two fraternal parties--the BCP and the CPSU. The close cooperation between them is of decisive significance for the further strengthening of the unity and broadening of the all-round ties between Bulgaria and the USSR.

HUSAK CONFERS HERO OF CSSR AWARD ON VLADIMIR REMEK

LD161336Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Prague, March 16 TASS--Gustav Husak, president of Czechoslovakia, on proposal of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Government of Czechoslovakia has conferred the honorary title of Hero of Czechoslovakia and the honorary title Pilot-Cosmonaut of Czechoslovakia on Vladimir Remek, Cosmonaut-reseracher, for the successful accomplishment of the space flight on board the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 orbital research complex among the international crew and for the courage and heroism he displayed in the process.

USSR MAKES REPRESENTATION TO CANADIAN AMBASSADOR 16 MAR

LD171830Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1720 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

["Representation to the Canadian Ambassador in the USSR"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--In connection with the continuing campaign in Canada to discredit the staff of Soviet institutions--a campaign which has been launched by circles trying to hamper the normal development of Soviet-Canadian relations--a representation was made to the Canadian ambassador in Moscow in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 16 March.

Attention was drawn to the irresponsible statements in the Canadian Parliament and press clearly aimed at discrediting the staff of the USSR Embassy and other Soviet institutions in Canada and showing their activities in a distorted light. These claims are absolutely unfounded and are fabricated by people interested in complicating Soviet-Canadian relations.

As was emphasized in the representation, it is expected that measures will be taken in Canada to end actions hostile to the Soviet Union and that a sense of responsibility and concern will be shown in maintaining the level that has been reached in relations between the two countries and their development, as this is in the long-term interests of the USSR and Canada.

FURTHER OUTCRY AGAINST ITALIAN LEADER MORO'S KIDNAPING

Countering With Unanimous Actions

LD201357Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Correspondent A. Krivopalov dispatch: "Terrorist Crime"]

[Excerpts] Rome--The concluding stage of the government crisis in Italy has been marked by an extraordinary and totally unexpected event.

Two hours before G. Andreotti, whom the president of the republic had entrusted with forming the new cabinet of ministers, was to deliver the government program in the Chamber of Deputies, local radio stations and television "flashed" a stunning piece of news. On his way from his home to parliament Aldo Moro, chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party, had been attacked and seized by bandits. Four guards accompanying him were killed on the spot. A fifth carabiniere, gravely wounded by the gangsters, died in the hospital a few hours later.

Subsequently, the details of the attack on the Christian Democratic Party leader have become known. It may now be confidently stated that it is the handiwork of professional assassins who had made careful preparations for their terrorist action.

The terrorists' barbarous act has caused a stormy reaction in the country. The extremist underground was reckoning on creating an atmosphere of tension, an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. Democratic Italy has replied to the provocateurs' sally with unanimous actions.

It was in this atmosphere that sessions of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate were held at which Andreotti read out the government program. Representatives of the parties of the newly formed parliamentary majority, in particular Italian Communist Party Secretary General E. Berlinguer, who spoke in the debate which opened after this, sharply condemned the crime committed by the extremists and called for unity of action among all the country's democratic forces.

Italian CP Comment

LD211001Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent N. Prozhogin report: "Political Crime"]

[Excerpts] Rome, 16 March--A drama aimed at undermining the republican system in Italy was played out in Rome today. Aldo Moro, a well-known Italian politician and chairman of the Christian Democratic Party National Council, was kidnaped in Rome this morning.

All the country's democratic forces have expressed their resolute and unconditional condemnation of the new political crime. A statement by the Italian Communist Party directorate emphasizes that the crime is part of a plot aimed at undermining the Italian people's democratic gains. "The immediate aim of the groups and forces which organized and carried out the attack," the Italian Communist Party directorate statement says, "is to hinder the efforts now needed to save and restore the country--efforts embodied in the creation of the new parliamentary majority of democratic unity. The plot is far-reaching and is being carried out by Nazi and fascist methods whose perpetrators are to be found among groupings concealed under various names."

People Protest Crime

LD201315Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent N. Prozhogin report under general heading: "A Tense Situation"]

[Text] Rome, 17 March--If the shady forces which organized and carried out the kidnaping yesterday of prominent Italian politician A. Moro were hoping to cause fear and panic in the country, they miscalculated. Even before the trade unions declared a general strike in protest against the crime, people began leaving their places of work. But the working people did not go to their homes. Right there in the streets they started to form columns of demonstrators, and big rallies were held. Hundreds of thousands of workers, employees and students took part.

This was not only a question of humane solidarity, the newspaper L'UNITA writes today. Terrorism serves the implementation of reaction's plans to undermine the republican system and eliminate the democratic gains. The people were rising to defend those gains.

Last night the G. Andreotti government won a vote of confidence from a parliamentary majority which includes the communists for the first time in 30 years. Speaking in the Chamber of Deputies E. Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, pointed out in connection with the political crime in Rome the danger of reaction to democracy and the republican system. All the country's strength must be directed against reaction's attempts to turn back the course of history, the speaker said. Every step must be taken to defend the state institutions and to insure security and democratic order.

Alleged Foreign Intelligence Backing

LD201317Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report under general heading: "A Tense Situation"]

[Text] Reporting yesterday's dramatic events in Rome, the newspaper L'HUMANITE draws attention to the fact that A. Moro had annoyed the enemies of democracy both in Italy and abroad by supporting cooperation with the Italian Communist Party.

It can be assumed, the newspaper writes, that the affair is not without the involvement of foreign intelligence services. Terrorism in Italy, L'HUMANITE goes on, receives assistance, notably in weapons and money, from "secret services whose activity is connected with the NATO military base in Naples."

BOURGEOIS PROPAGANDA INFLUENCED FRENCH ELECTION

LD202000Y Moscow in Polish to Poland 1700 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The second, final stage of elections for the National Assembly was held last Sunday in France. Our Paris correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev reports:

The basic struggle was between two blocs: The Union of Left Forces, the Communists, Socialists and the Left Radicals on the one hand; and on the other the ruling bourgeois coalition which consists of two groupings: the Gaullist Union for the Republic, and the Union of French Democracy, which consists of the Republicans, the Centrists and other minor political groups. According to official figures the bloc of the parties of the left has won 199 seats. In comparison with the 1973 elections the Communist and Socialist parties have increased the number of seats they hold in the National Assembly. The parties of the ruling majority have won 291 seats.

The results of the election had been influenced by the mass attacks of bourgeois propaganda which campaigned above all against the Communist Party and also tried to frighten the voters with the picture of economic collapse and political crisis in the event of victory by the forces of the left. Local observers stress that the discussion which has been going on from last September to the past few days between the leftist parties about a possible resumption of their Joint Program, and also about social and economic transformations, has created doubt among some voters about both the document itself and the ability of the two parties to put into practice together the reforms outlined in their program, should they have won.

L'HUMANITE ACCUSES SOCIALIST VOTERS OF BETRAYING LEFT

LD202152Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Vladimir Dmitriyev dispatch]

[Text] The relative positions of political forces on the eve of the second round of French elections were approximately equal, and so were the chances for success of the competing sides. If all the supporters of democratic changes give their votes without hesitation to the candidates of the Union of Left Forces who have a joint program, L'HUMANITE wrote, then the right coalition will be defeated. The results of the elections show that this did not happen. Many socialist voters violated the agreement made by left parties to vote for the Union of the Left candidates and voted for the representatives of the bourgeois coalition. Leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties emphasized that the existing election system in France is unjust, that it gives an advantage to forces which are in power. If there were a proportional system in the country, Jean Poperen, a member of the leadership of the Socialist Party, said in a television interview, then the left parties would secure a majority for themselves in the current elections.

The results of the elections have been affected by bourgeois propaganda's large-scale attacks against the left forces and above all against the Communist Party: frightening the population with the prospect of economic dislocation, totalitarianism, and political crisis had the left won.

Representatives of the governing coalition and also leaders of the left parties have spoken on radio and television. Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party, said in particular: There is no doubt that working people who hoped for and awaited the changes will be disillusioned now. However, they should not lose faith. The correlation in the whole country has remained practically the same as it was before the elections. In the first round of the elections 15 million voters came out against the ruling majority, and this is reflected in the composition of the National Assembly. The weakened majority remains in power, and the crisis in France will continue. The Communist Party, which now has more deputies, will remain firmly on the side of those struggling for a better life, Georges Marchais stressed. At the same time it will continue the policy aiming at the strengthening of the alliance of left forces and the unity of all who want change. We do not question the alliance of the Joint Program of the left forces, the leader of French Communists said in conclusion.

FRANCE CHARGED WITH SECRETLY CREATING NEUTRON BOMB

LD191829Y Moscow TASS in English 1542 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

["Is France Making a Neutron Bomb"--TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, March 19, TASS--According to the Paris weekly VENDREDI, SAMEDI, DIMANCHE, French specialists are secretly working to create a neutron bomb with characteristics similar to those of the American bomb. The USA secret services, the weekly reports, are trying to find out whether the French specialists made use of some information leak from the USA.

SPAIN'S OREJA COMMENTS ON 'NORMALIZATION' OF RELATIONS

LD211029Y Moscoww PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Chernyshev report: "Horizons of Cooperation"]

[Text] Madrid, 16 March--Speaking in the senate, Spanish Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja has called the struggle for detente and disarmament one of the main directions of the country's foreign policy. As an example attesting to Spain's desire to strengthen contacts wwth all countries of the world, the minister cited the normalization of relations with the socialist countries, including the Soviet Union, and with the countries of Southeast Asia and Africa.

COMMON MARKET: LOW GROWTH, MORE UNEMPLOYMENT IN 1978

LD210722Y Moscow TASS in English 0716 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Brussels, March 21, TASS--A slowed down growth of industrial production and a rise in the army of the unemployed will remain the characteristic features of economic development of the Common Market countries in 1978. Such a conclusion has been made in a report of experts of the Commission of European Communities, published here. According to the report, the growth of industrial production in the current year will be, on the average, 2.8 percent--much below the envisaged level. In experts' opinion, the number of unemployed in the EEC countries is expected to further grow this year.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON

Damascus, Baghdad Meetings

LD201725Y Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 20, TASS--A conference of foreign and defence ministers of the front of progressive Arab states--Algeria, Libya, the PDRY, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization--has opened here. Addressing the conference, Syria's foreign minister, Khaddam, urged all Arab countries to repulse the Israeli aggression and to work out practical measures to achieve the set aim. These measures, he said, should envisage aid to Lebanon, protection of the Palestinian revolution and assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Syrian foreign minister noted the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East in connection with the continuing aggression by Israel which wants to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and liquidate the Palestine resistance movement. The minister stressed the need of unity of Arab countries in repulsing the Israeli aggression.

A. Khaddam pointed to the inter-connection between the Israeli aggression in the south of Lebanon and the political course of the Egyptian regime directed at a capitulatory "solution" of the Middle East problem to the detriment of the national dignity of Arabs and at the expense of their cardinal interests. Such a "settlement" will only enable Zionism and imperialism to ensure their strategic domination over the Arab world, he stressed.

The conference is continuing its work.

Baghdad, March 20, TASS--N. Haddad, member of the leadership of the Ba'th Party, addressed a big public meeting here held in protest against Israel's criminal aggression in the south of Lebanon. He said the aggression is a result of the treacherous capitulatory policy of some Arab regimes, of their playing up to imperialist states, especially to the United States.

N. Haddad assured the meeting of Iraq's readiness to give military and material support to the struggle by the Palestinian resistance movement and Lebanese national-patriotic forces against the imperialist-Zionist offensive.

Member of the leadership of the Ba'th Party A. al-Rafii described the aggression against Lebanon as a link in the plot by imperialism, Israel and reactionary Arab regimes.

Al-Huss to Syria

LD210942Y Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 21, TASS--Lebanon's prime minister, Salim al-Huss, today left for a visit to Syria. The situation in the south of Lebanon, international and inter-Arab efforts aimed at elimination of the aftermath of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon will be discussed in the course of Lebanese-Syrian negotiations. The prime minister will convey to President of Syria Hafiz al-Asad an oral message from Ilyas Sarkis, president of the Republic of Lebanon.

Aggression Expanding

LD201604Y Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, March 20, TASS--Fierce fighting has been going on in Lebanon's south for the sixth day. The Israeli military are expanding the scope of the aggression in the territory of the sovereign Arab country. This morning Israeli Army units conducted an advance on the city of Tyre from different directions. They cut off the Tyre-Sidon highway and captured a strategically important bridge over Litani River.

Last night Israeli aircraft and artillery intensively bombed and shelled the city of Tyre, the coastal strip of the country's south, and the outskirts of An-Nabatiyah. Hundreds of civilians were killed or injured. A particularly large number of casualties were in the camp for the provisional accommodation of refugees in the northern suburbs of Tyre. Yesterday the Israeli "Phantoms" repeatedly appeared over north Lebanese areas, on the outskirts of the city of Tripoli in particular. Air defence units of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon opened fire on the Israeli aircraft and made them withdraw.

According to data issued here by the command of the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance movement and the national-patriotic forces of Lebanon, Israel's losses over four days of fighting amounted to 450 killed or wounded. About a hundred armoured vehicles of various type were put out of action, and four aircraft were shot down.

The occupation of the country's south by Israel is a thoroughly planned action, local observers note. The events in the area, they emphasize, are a vivid illustration that Israel, enjoying all kind of support on the part of the USA, is implementing its adventuristic expansionsist plans and does not stop short of mass killing of civilians and destruction of towns and villages. The number of refugees from the south exceeded 200,000. In spite of measures which are being taken by the government, most of refugees do not have so far even a provisional shelter and acutely need food and medical aid.

London, March 20, TASS--The British TIMES writes that Israel set itself farther-reaching goals in Lebanon than the original intention to create a security belt along the Lebanese-Israeli border. With reference to closest advisers of Israeli Prime Minister Begin, the newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH reports that he will in every way resist the Israeli troops' withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

New York, March 20, TASS--A New York TIMES correspondent reports from Tel Aviv that the Israeli Army yesterday established control practically over Lebanon's entire territory to the south of Litani River, crossing the boundary of the six-mile 'security belt' announced by Israel earlier.

The Washington POST draws attention to the fact that most up-to-date U.S. F-15 fighter bombers, which the USA does not yet even supply to its NATO allies, take part in the barbarous raids on Lebanese towns and villages, raids as a result of which hundreds of civilians died.

The newspaper PEOPLE'S WORLD published in California sharply condemns the U.S. Government's Middle East policy which prepared the ground for Israel's aggression against Lebanon. The newspaper writes that the roots of the aggression stretch to Washington. It is the actions of the U.S. administration which departed from the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on the Middle East dated October 1, 1977, which envisaged an earlest return to the Geneva Middle East peace conference as well as the unprincipled and opportunistc support for As-Sadat's separate collusion with Begin that led to the present tragic situation.

Israeli Air Raids

LD202136Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Correspondent Leonid Rabsadin report from Beirut]

[Text] Despite demands by the UN Security Council that Israel stop military actions immediately and withdraw its troops from Lebanese territory without delay, the aggressor last night and today continued to increase his intervention. The south Lebanese port of Tyre and its environs remains the epicenter of fierce battles. This town as well as the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Ar-Rashidiyah are being subjected to continuous barbarous air raids by Israeli aircraft, and this has led to fresh civilian victims. Fragmentation bombs were being dropped on these areas. These are mass destruction weapons. The use of such lethal weapons is, as is well known, banned by international convention.

On Sunday Israeli planes carried out for the first time a number of provocative flights over the Palestinian camps of Nahr al-Barid and Baddawi, which are located in north Lebanon 160 kilometers from the Israeli border. The air pirates were driven away by the antiaircraft fire of the camp's defenders.

The Beirut paper AS-SAFIR says that the staunchness demonstrated by the Lebanese and Palestinian warriors has not allowed Israel to achieve its main aim--the physical destruction of the Palestinian resistance movement. In the light of the situation that has arisen an extraordinary session of the Lebanese Government is being convened here in Beirut this evening. The matter of accomodating south Lebanese refugees in other areas of the country will also be examined at the session. Their number, according to incomplete data, is already more than 400,000.

Israeli Aims, Responsibilities

LD201900Y Moscow in Romanian to Romania 1600 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Guns are roaring again in the Middle East. Israel has committed barbarous aggression against Lebanon. Our commentator, Yuriy Glukhov, writes:

Israel's attack was prepared in good time and in great detail in order to attain an old goal, namely the occupation of southern Lebanon and the destruction of the PLO. The design is to strike a blow at the Arab national liberation movement. As Yasir 'Abd Rabbu, spokesman of the PLO leadership, said, the Zionists are trying to impose by force on the Arab peoples the capitulationist Egyptian-Israeli path to settling the Middle East conflict. This so-called settlement would be implemented at the expense, first and foremost, of the interests of the Arab people of Palestine.

Israel's military strength comes from the arsenals of the United States, which in recent years has supplied weapons worth several billion dollars. Ultramodern American technology, planes, tanks and other murderous weapons are now being used against Lebanon's civilian population and against Palestinian refugees. It is known that the United States fully backs the Tel Aviv rulers. Abu Mayzar, one of the PLO leaders, said that once again Israel's actions were coordinated with the imperialist circles of the United States.

The majority of political observers believe that Tel Aviv would not have dared to undertake a large-scale operation in Lebanon without Washington's approval. It is pointed out that the White House was informed in good time about Israel's aggression against Lebanon. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state, is quoted as saying: We have not advised cessation of the invasion.

Israel's aggression against Lebanon shows most clearly the true aims of Tel Aviv's policy: altering the map of the Middle East. It is quite clear that the talks and maneuvers around the separate Egyptian-Israeli negotiations have been and still are a smokescreen for continuing Tel Aviv's aggressive actions against neighboring Arab countries. Israeli hawks profit hugely from Egypt's isolation in the joint struggle of the Arabs. The aggression perpetrated by Israel against Lebanon under the slogan of merciless combat against the PLO has taken place at a time when the Cairo leadership was throwing mud at the Palestinian resistance movement.

Israel's aggression is condemned throughout the world; it is being described as an unprecedented attempt on the sovereignty of an independent state which is a United Nations member. The Security Council asked Israel to end the aggression against Lebanon and to withdraw its troops. The resolution passed yesterday also stipulates that special United Nations forces be sent to southern Lebanon. The demand is made more and more strongly to put an immediate end to the actions of the aggressor, who is pushing the Middle East toward a new military conflict.

Progressive Arab countries reaffirm their support for the Palestinian people. They underscore the need for cohesion among all forces of the Arab world that militantly oppose the plot by imperialism, Zionism and local reaction to torpedo a global and just settlement in the Middle East.

The Soviet people express indignation and wrath at Israel's new criminal action. The present events in the Middle East confirm once again the complete justification of the many warnings given by the USSR to the effect that the nonsettlement of the Middle East conflict, Israel's occupation of Arab territories and the violation of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine create a situation that could lead to further military conflict.

The TASS statement points out that the USSR resolutely condemns Israel's armed invasion of Lebanon. The USSR calls on all peace-loving people to unite in efforts to curb Israel's aggression and for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon. The TASS statement says that the Israeli Government bears entire responsibility for the dangerous consequences of the sudden new aggravation of the situation in the Middle East.

Palestinian Resistance; Situation in Beirut

LD210927Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Correspondent Ye. Korshunov article: "Lebanon on Fire"]

[Excerpt] Beirut--All day yesterday the cities and villages of southern Lebanon continued to undergo Israeli air raids and missile and artillery bombardment. All day the number of casualties among Lebanese people and Palestinian refugees grew. And this in spite of the boastful statement by Zionist propaganda that the "mopping-up operation" was completed in the first 24 hours and "all Palestinian bases are destroyed."

The events of these days have shown that things have been much harder for the aggressors than they expected. Even Israeli radio admits that the invasion forces are suffering losses, that they have had to "activate air actions" in order to neutralize "the last of the resistance" and that fierce fighting is taking place in regions described as "already mopped up."

Fighters of the Palestinian resistance movement and the Lebanese national patriotic forces are opposing the heavily armed aggressors.

The mood prevailing today among those who are fighting the invaders in southern Lebanon is reflected in a message from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Palestinian resistance fighters: "Israel's military clique is trying to occupy southern Lebanon and strike a blow against your revolution and your people. You are fighting heroically against the Zionist enemy in the name of your revolution, your people and your cause, defending the lands of Lebanon, Palestine and the whole Arab nation. This heroism has become a source of honor and pride for the Arab nation."

The Palestinians and Lebanese understand the full gravity of the situation. The Lebanese press publishes reports from abroad on the numerous statements by prominent statesmen and the public of various countries condemning the aggressors and on the disturbances on the West Bank of the Jordan, where Palestinians are demonstrating against the aggressor.

All the newspapers prominently publish detailed versions of the TASS statement stressing the resolute position of the Soviet Union with respect to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. "Moscow Demands Withdrawal of Israeli Troops from Lebanon" is a typical headline in Lebanese newspapers. At the same time Israel is clearly counting on a renewal of clashes between Lebanese national patriotic forces and conservative elements. Israeli radio never tires of asserting that the aggressors are supported by rightwing Christian formations in southern Lebanon, thereby blatantly provoking a renewal of internal Lebanese conflict.

The situation in Beirut has grown more complex. Yesterday and today in the city you could see groups of armed people. Shots are sometimes heard, and ambulance sirens wail. Right in front of my eyes by the television center building a young Lebanese was killed by unknown people. The shooting started without warning.

Meanwhile more and more disturbing reports continue to come from the front, where the battles have not ended.

Separate Talks Versus Geneva

LD201726Y Moscow TASS in English 1720 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20 TASS--TASS commentator Sergey Stoklitskiy writes:

Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin arrived in the United States for talks with U.S. President James Carter. Having staged an unprecedented-in-scope act of aggression against Lebanon, Tel Aviv is now trying to win the support of its U.S. patrons and keep the "preventive" occupation of part of the territory of that sovereign Arab state. It is not fortuitous that literally on the eve of his arrival in the USA, the Israeli prime minister directly stated that he is not going to retreat from the occupied territory of southern Lebanon.

Israel's new act of aggression is another dangerous step in the direction which is diametrically opposite to a just settlement of the Middle East conflict.

It must be recalled that, as was pointed out in the Soviet-U.S. statement on the Middle East signed in October last year, talks within the framework of the Geneva Middle East peace conference, which was created expressly for the purposes with the participation of representatives of all the sides involved in the conflict, including the Palestinian people, are the only right and effective way to ensure a cardinal solution to all aspects of the Middle East problem in their entirety. But it turned out that while signing the statement, the United States, contrary to it, encouraged Israel to the pursuance of the course towards separate talks with each of Arab states.

By advancing the idea of separate deals, Tel Aviv expected thereby to undermine the unity of Arab states and avoid a meeting in Geneva where it would inevitably face the united front of the victims of its aggressive policy.

The events of the recent days confirmed: for Israel, the separate talks and the aggression are links of the same chain. It is true the United States is now trying to dissociate itself from Tel Aviv's military venture in southern Lebanon. But it is clear to any unprejudiced observer that this is only an attempt to camouflage Washington's double game in the Middle East. In the obtaining conditions it is quite rightful to ask the question: Can one trust the politicians who, while putting their signature next to the signature of the USSR to such an important document as the statement on the Middle East, violate both its spirit and its letter there and then?

What the peoples have the right to await from the United States, which is one of the cochairmen of the Geneva Middle East peace conference, is an end to the support for Israel's aggressive course, and full implementation of the principles, endorsed by the entire international community, for a just settlement of the Middle East problem, and not the substitution of separate talks for the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

AL-QADHDHAFI DISCUSSES FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD202014Y Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, March 20 TASS--A session of the people's assemblies of the General People's Congress--primary state power bodies of Libya--opened here. On the agenda of the session are the further development of people's democracy, the realization of socio-economic transformations in the country, the drawing of the broad mass of population into the management of the national economy, consideration of the draft law on universal military service as well as a number of important foreign policy matters.

On the eve of the session, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdafi, general secretary of the General People's Congress of Libya, addressed the Libyan people over national radio and television. He explained the importance of the forthcoming session of people's assemblies for the further improvement of the structure of people's power in the country, for the raising of the living standard of Libya working people, for strengthening of defense, continuation of the anti-imperialist course of foreign policy and the rendering of all-round support and help by Libya to the Palestine liberation movement.

The general secretary of the General People's Congress reaffirmed the intention of the Libyan leadership to take measures to further curb the activities of local bourgeoisie, private land and house ownership, for removal of conditions for the exploitation of Libyan working people by private employers. Touching upon the draft law on universal military service, he pointed out that its adoption is not prompted by Libya's aggressiveness but by the urgent necessity to strengthen the country's defense potential and create modern armed forces to defend the gains of the Libyan revolution.

Analyzing the present situation in the Middle East, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that Libya considers Syria the main force which confronts Israel and is ready to give all-round assistance and support to Syria and the Palestinian resistance movement in the political, economic and military fields.

Having strongly condemned the policy of the present Egyptian leadership and imperialist powers with the USA at the head in the question of a Middle East settlement, policy as a result of which Israel's new aggression in Lebanon's south became possible, the general secretary of the General People's Congress called for further unity of progressive Arab forces. He demanded an immediate termination of hostilities in Lebanon's south, withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the area, and ensurance of Lebanon's sovereignty and national integrity.

TYAZHELNIKOV-LED CPSU DELEGATION RETURNS FROM SOUTH YEMEN

LD201601Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Text] On 17 March the CPSU delegation headed by Ye.M. Tyazhelnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Section, returned to Moscow from Aden. The delegation was in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen at the invitation of the United Political Organization-National Front Central Committee.

BRIEFS

SYRIAN DAM--Damascus, March 10, TASS--Syrian builders have finished, with the help of Soviet specialists, constructing an earth dam and a gravel road bed on a 100-kilometer section of the Homs-Damascus railway, now under construction. This railway is to connect the capital with major industrial centers and ports of the country. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0627 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD]

CREATION OF BLOCS IN AFRICA A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT

LD201202Y Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

["Africa: Confrontation or Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--TASS political commentator Sergey Kulik writes:

The USSR's policy in Africa has been attacked of late by Western propaganda. Indicative in this respect is the speech that President of the United States James Carter made on March 17 at the university in Wake Forest. President Carter accused the Soviet Union of allegedly tending to interfere in the affairs of African countries.

To confirm this assertion, some press bodies of Western Europe and America refer to the assistance that was given by the Soviet Union to Ethiopia during the conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Meanwhile, it is well-known that before hostilities broke out between Ethiopia and Somalia, the Soviet Union had had excellent relations with Mogadiscio. When the conflict was brewing, the Soviet Union has done everything possible to prevent confrontation between the two neighbouring countries. When, despite all its efforts, the Somali Government sent its troops to the Ogaden and they occupied a considerable part of the Ethiopian territory, the USSR, true to its internationalist duty, gave assistance to the victim of the attack.

And now, too, the Soviet Union holds that a road to peace and goodneighbourliness is quite possible in the Horn of Africa. The most important condition for this is immediate ending of all hostilities with simultaneous complete withdrawal from Ethiopia of Somali troops and other units fighting on its side. The Somalian leaders must unconditionally give up their claims to the part of the territory of Ethiopia and Kenya and to Djibouti, pledge themselves to strictly observe the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of other countries and keep from the use of force at settling international disputes.

And what does the United States oppose to this stand? At a time when the conflict is about to be ended, the U.S. sends to Somalia Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard Moose, who holds negotiations on deliveries of large consignments of weapons to that country. For what purpose? Ethiopia does not make claims to an inch of the Somalian land and declared many times that it does not intend to spread military actions beyond its limits. What is the purpose of Somalia's rearmament in these conditions? Doesn't this mean that Washington is interested in dragging out the conflict and preserving the seat of tensions in the area of the Horn of Africa?

Raising hullabaloo about alleged Soviet "interference" in African affairs, Western propaganda clearly seeks to distract the attention of the world public from the policy that is conducted in Africa by the United States and other countries of the North Atlantic alliance. And the essence of this policy is to attempt to establish in Africa a system of military blocs linked with the West in some way or another.

The so-called Red Sea bloc is being knocked together under the auspices of the United States on whose behalf Saudi Arabia, the Sudan and Egypt are acting. The purpose of this bloc is the struggle against countries that chose the progressive way of development, perpetuation of the split between Arab and non-Arab states of the region. Attempts are made from religious and chauvinist positions to establish control of part of littoral countries over the Red Sea in violation of lawful rights of other states and peoples, to the detriment of the interests of free navigation.

A grouping of states that signed the so-called "treaty on non-aggression and mutual assistance" is being formed in west Africa. What the implementation of this treaty will mean in practice for Africa is manifested by recent shows of strength of some of its participants in the west Sahara district and by suppression of a people's uprising in Zaire's province, Shaba.

It must be noted that all these mini-blocs are being created contrary to the principles of the Organisation of African Unity. They undermine national sovereignty of independent African countries, disunite African countries and set them one against another and in the long run introduce a new neocolonialist form of splitting the African Continent into different zones of influence.

The creation of mini-blocs legalising the West's direct interference in the affairs of African countries will sooner or later entail formation of blocs and groupings opposing them with all consequences to follow.

The Soviet Union is against such a dangerous development of events. It was and remains in favour of friendly relations among all independent states of the continent, of relations that would be based on the principles of respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of these states, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and liquidation of all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism.

U.S. OFFICIAL CONTINUES TALKS WITH SOMALI LEADERS

LD201628Y Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nairobi, March 20 TASS--According to reports from Mogadiscio, the assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs, Richard Moose, who is staying there, is continuing talks with Somali leaders. He was received by the president of Somalia, Siad Barre, and presented to him a special message from the President of the United States.

Observers believe that the entire range of American-Somalian relations was discussed in Mogadiscio, first of all the question of large-scale American arms supplies to Somalia. In conditions when Somalia refuses to withdraw its claims to the territory of neighbouring countries, local observers note, such deliveries mean encouragement of aggression and rude interference in the affairs of African countries.

KENYAN OPPOSES SOMALI CLAIMS TO NEIGHBORING STATES

LD201346Y Moscow TASS in English 1259 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nairobi, March 20, TASS--It is a cause of Kenya's concern that the Government of Somalia has not yet officially announced renunciation of her claims to the territory of neighbouring countries, Kenya's foreign minister, Munyua Waiyaki, said in an interview to the newspaper Sunday NATION.

He emphasized that stubborn claims to part of the territory of Ethiopia, Kenya, and the whole of Djibouti, the attempts to capture this territory by the force of arms--all this might lead to creation of a permanent seat of tension in that part of Africa, to new conflicts between Somalia and neighbouring states. Kenya is resolutely against aggression and the policy of territorial seizures, the minister stressed. We intend to firmly defend our state interests, if we come under attack, and we shall be side by side with those whom we shall regard our friends at a time of trial.

PEASANTS HAVE BECOME DEFENDERS OF NEW ETHIOPIA

LD051102Y Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 5 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 5, TASS--The land nationalisation decree adopted by the military government in March 1975 became a truly historic event during the revolutionary-democratic transformation of the old feudal-monarchal Ethiopia, Valentin Korovikov, PRAVDA's Addis Ababa correspondent writes in the newspaper. "At present, three years later, an exceptionally progressive importance of the reform does not need proof any longer," he emphasises.

The article points out that 25 million rural residents of Ethiopia got rid of the heaviest yoke of serfdom, were provided with land, set up their own self-government bodies. Peasants join in national, state affairs in an increasingly active way.

The abolishment of landlord property rights, and annulment of all peasant debts, the provision of millions of yesterday's tenants and farm hands with land, the establishment of peasant associations and the arming of many thousands of people's militiamen turned the peasants into a great revolutionary force, into defenders of new Ethiopia, the correspondent observes.

The article says that for the first time in Ethiopia's history state institutions, banks, health services and educational bodies came to the aid of the countryside. Last year the cooperatives were given 15 million birr worth of loans and subsidies. A special agency for rural projects is in charge of the construction of schools, medical aid stations, dwelling houses, and water-supply system. Last year alone, more than 700 primary schools were built. The number of medical aid stations in rural areas has grown severalfold in recent years. There are more than a thousandof them now. The agency's aggregate expenses amounted to about 70 million birr in 1977. Last year the Ministry of Agriculture distributed 300,000 tons of chemical fertilizers and 23,000 tons of varietal seeds among peasants.

The people of Ethiopia are now faced with a dual task: to consolidate and deepen the revolutionary-democratic transformations and at the same time to wage a difficult struggle against foreign aggression, and against attempts to partition the country, the correspondent writes. "In this hard battle the countryside plays a big role. Thirty thousand peasants have already taken up arms and underwent military training. Divisions of people's militia defend their native land in fighting in the Ogaden. Thousands of self-defence detachments struggle in all parts of country against the counter-revolutionaries, economic sabotage, and bandit gangs." The major outcome of the agrarian transformations in Ethiopia is the social awakening and the emancipation of 25 million peasants, the correspondent summarizes.

SALISBURY AGREEMENT COMPLICATES SITUATION IN RHODESIA

LD201351Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Fedor Tarasov article: "Behind the People's Back"]

[Text] At the initiative of African and nonalined countries, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution condemning and rejecting the Salisbury agreement on a so-called "internal settlement" of the Rhodesia crisis. The resolution declares that any settlement reached under the aegis of the racists is illegal and unacceptable and calls on all states not to recognize such agreements.

This agreement on the "handover of power to the African majority" concluded recently between Rhodesian racist leader Ian Smith on the one hand and the African clergymen, Muzorewa and Sithole, and the tribal chief, Chirau, on the other substantially complicates the situation in the country. Smith has succeeded in winning over a number of Africans willing to serve him and is now hoping, with their assistance, to circumvent the majority of the indigenous population, represented by the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, and create the semblance of a handover of power in Rhodesia to the Africans.

In the expectation of generous handouts from their white masters, Smith's African henchmen are already threatening to join the struggle against the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. Thus conditions are being created for the extension of the armed conflict, since the people of Zimbabwe, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, have long been waging an armed struggle for independence.

The Rhodesian racists' plan to force through a neocolonialist solution to the question has received support from their Western patrons--Britain and the United States. "Complete approval" for the plans to turn the present white minority regime into a "government" with the participation of African puppets has also come from Smith's long-standing ally--South African Prime Minister Vorster. Encouraged by this support, the Rhodesian military is stepping up the provocations against its African neighbors. In response to the Africans' appeal to the UN Security Council it carried out a piratical attack on Zambia which resulted in many casualties among the peaceful population. All this is stepping up tension in the south of the African Continent.

For this reason Security Council sessions have been held under the sign of angry condemnation of the racists and their patrons and of growing solidarity with the Zimbabwe people's struggle for freedom among African states and all world progressive forces.

The international community rejects Ian Smith's plans to impose a neocolonialist solution on the Rhodesia crisis. A way out can be found only on the basis of a handover of power to the true African majority, whose interests are expressed by the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front.

KANEMARU REITERATES DEMAND FOR INCREASED MILITARY ARMS

LD201500Y Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 20, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin reports: Chief of Japan's Defence Agency S. Kanemaru came out again with militarist calls and demanded further build-up of the country's military potential. It is characteristic that leaflets with provocative chauvinist calls were circulated by ultra-right elements during a graduation ceremony at the military academy of the Defence Agency in Yokosuka where the head of the Defence Agency spoke. A strong army consisting of 260 thousand servicemen and having the latest weapons and military equipment including tanks, long-range cannons, jet fighter-bombers, tactical missiles and submarines was created in Japan in violation of the country's peaceful Constitution which renounces war and armaments.

The leaders of the Japanese Government already started asserting that the Constitution, allegedly, does not rule out Japan's possession of nuclear weapons in defensive purposes. Insulting the memory of the people that were the first to experience the horrors of atomic bombings, representatives of the Defence Agency, when describing the type of nuclear weapons with which Japan's armed forces can possibly be armed referred to atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki a third of a century ago. Japan's democratic public resolutely condemns the militarist hysteria that is being fanned up by the country's ruling circles. The democratic public regards it as a threat to peace and security in the Far East, to detente in Asia and in the Pacific.

JAPAN REFUSES CONCESSIONS AT TOKYO TALKS WITH EEC

LD201530Y Moscow TASS in English 1505 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 20, TASS--Negotiations between Japan and Common Market countries on commercial and economic problems started here today in the atmosphere of differences existing between the two sides. The West European delegation at the negotiations is led by Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities Wilhelm Haferkamp.

During today's meetings with leaders of the Japanese Government, the Common Market's representative expressed serious displeasure of the Nine over Japan's growing trade surplus which amounted to 5.2 billion dollars in 1977. Haferkamp called on Tokyo again to take urgent measures to reduce the huge trade surplus, increase Japan's imports of industrial goods and farm products from the EEC countries and curb exports to Western Europe. During preliminary negotiations, the Japanese side refused to make concessions.

JAPANESE DELEGATION HEARS DEMAND FOR ANTIHEGEMONY CLAUSE

OW201001Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Tsvetov commentary]

[Text] China is implacably demanding the incorporation of an antihegemony clause in the proposed treaty with Japan, a demand that was made clear during the meeting between Junya Yano, head of the Komei Party delegation to China, and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. The Chinese leaders do not conceal the fact that the clause is directed against the Soviet Union.

According to the calculations of a Tokyo television station, if all the people in China were to simultaneously jump from a height of 1 meter, it would cause an earthquake that would have an intensity of three in Japan. On the other hand, those pro-Soviet Japanese can correctly state that should the treaty be concluded as demanded by Peking, a mere stomping by the Chinese leaders would draw Japan into a scheme far more dangerous than the strongest earthquake.

Citing the view of the pro-Soviet people, ASAHI SHIMBUN wrote that an evil plan for a united anti-Soviet front is lurking behind the antihegemony clause demanded by the Chinese leaders. The Japan-China treaty issue has caused apprehension among broad sections of the Japanese people. Consequently, the treaty advocates are trying to conceal the clause's anti-Soviet nature with sophistry. They say that the treaty provides for the pursuit of an independent policy by each signatory and calls for non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. Thus, Japan can pursue a friendly policy with all nations, even with the antihegemony clause. Whether or not China continues with its anti-Soviet policy is its own business.

Indeed, it seems that one can always find an excuse. However, in his meeting with Junya Yano, Teng Hsiao-ping clearly stated that it is unreasonable for one to say that he is opposed to hegemonism while simultaneously insisting that his antihegemonism is not directed against a particular country. Then, who is advocating the acceleration of the Japan-China treaty negotiations? First, the monopoly capitalists in Japan. Industrial and business circles, writes SANKEI SHIMBUN, are showing enthusiastic interest in China.

History shows that Japanese monopolists have driven their country to a tragic catastrophe more than once. Are they going to do it all over again? This is the question facing Japan today.

MOSCOW CITES TIES TO WEST IN DEFENSE OF TREATY WITH JAPAN

OW201013Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW

[Yuriy Afonin commentary]

[Text] The Soviet draft of a USSR-Japan neighborliness and cooperation treaty, which was delivered to Japanese Foreign Minister Sonoda in Moscow in early January and later published by the Soviet Union in late February, drew strong opposition from official quarters and some newspapers in Japan.

The Japanese Government declared that since the draft had not officially been received, it would not comment on it. Nevertheless, officials attacked the Soviet draft repeatedly. They even asserted that under the proposed neighborliness and cooperation treaty, the Soviet Union is trying to turn Japan into one of its satellite countries, impose a military alliance on Japan and isolate it from the United States and China. Needless to say, they are trying to divert the Japanese public's attention from the true substance of the Soviet draft by implying the Soviet Union has dark designs behind it. Therefore, in order to once again prove that opponents of the neighborliness and cooperation treaty are mistaken, it would be useful to examine their assertions. First, let us consider their notorious assertion that the proposed treaty contains a military alliance. To justify their claim, they cite Article 5 of the draft, which merely states that the two countries shall hold regular contacts and consultations on important international issues. The article contains nothing from which one can draw the conclusion that it intends a "military conspiracy."

In this connection, it should be noted that the 1973 Soviet-Japan joint communique stated: Both sides have stressed the need for a continued dialog between the leaders of the two countries. A similar clause on consultations is contained in agreements between the USSR and other capitalist countries. For example, the document on the fundamental relations between the USSR and the United States signed in May 1972 states: Both sides shall bear the obligation of exchanging views on matters of mutual concern and maintaining the practice of exchanging views at the highest level, including exchanges at meetings of the leaders of the two countries.

The 1970 USSR-France protocol states: Should a situation arise which threatens or violates peace or leads to international tension, the governments of the USSR and France shall promptly enter into contacts to discuss their respective positions on all aspects of the situation and to implement measures to cope with it. Clearly, these clauses are similar to Article 5 of the Soviet draft of the proposed USSR-Japan treaty. USSR-France relations clearly demonstrate the importance of consultations. Therefore, the 1975 declaration on friendship and cooperation between the USSR and France states: Both sides, evaluating the political consultations between the USSR and France as a complete success, have decided to develop such consultations at all levels. Ardent critics of the Soviet draft treaty with Japan cannot claim that the United States or France has become a satellite country of the USSR, or that the USSR has a military alliance with the United States or France.

Then, why do some people in Japan see a potential danger in what the U.S. and French leaders approved a long time ago? The consultation clause, especially the proposition on holding consultations in the event of a threat to or a violation of peace, has become a widely recognized standard of international law. It has become an important factor in the policy of peaceful coexistence among countries with differing social systems. Only those with a jaundiced eye would regard peaceful coexistence as a military alliance.

Not every one in Japan is prejudiced against the Soviet draft. Munenori Akagi, former minister of agriculture and forestry, noted activist and president of the Japan-Soviet Friendship Society, favors the treaty. At a 13 March press conference, he urged the Japanese Government to favorably consider the Soviet draft as a step toward the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two nations. Akagi called for further improvements in USSR-Japan relations in various fields and stressed the importance of economic cooperation between the two nations as well as the reciprocal features of that cooperation. He criticized the Japanese officials' arbitrary rejection of the Soviet draft and their refusal to even study the important diplomatic document. Akagi emphasized that the Japanese Government's attitude could not be seen as an expression of friendly diplomacy.

Shoryu Hata, managing editor of ASAHI SHIMBUN, also criticized the Japanese Government's attitude toward the Soviet draft. A realistic attitude toward the Soviet proposal is in the interests of the Japanese nation.

MOSCOW MEETING MARKS USSR-DPRK AGREEMENT ANNIVERSARY

SK210740Y Moscow in Korean to Korea 1130 GMT 17 Mar 78 SK

[Excerpts] The commemorative report meeting [honoring the 29th anniversary of USSR-DPRK treaty] held at the (?USSR-Korean Friendship Hall) was attended by many representatives of Soviet and Korean social circles, workers, scholars and college students. The guests warmly greeted DPRK Ambassador to the Soviet Union Kim Chae-pong and the staff of the DPRK Embassy.

At the meeting, (Aleksandrov), vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Association, made a commemorative report. He said: The agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] provides a foundation for mutual cooperation in these fields. This agreement forsees the expansion of trade in every possible way between the Soviet Union and the DPRK, exchanges of industrial and agricultural information, technical assistance, and extensive development of cultural cooperation. Experience demonstrates that the conclusion of this agreement has contributed to further strengthening and developing the new socialist relations between our countries. These relations are based on principles of brotherly assistance, absolute equality and reciprocity.

The Soviet Union is currently assisting the DPRK in the construction of large-scale (?plants) which will increase production of steel, school supplies, electricity, electric motors and other goods. At many construction sites in Korea, Soviet engineers and technicians are working with Korean technicians. They help the Korean technicians understand and assemble the Soviet-made machinery and facilities and train Korean technicians--thus contributing to strengthening Soviet-Korean friendship through common efforts.

The recent visit to the DPRK by the Soviet party and government delegation, led by Comrade Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium Standing Committee and first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, greatly contributed to strengthening solidarity between Korea and the Soviet Union. The Soviet people who cherish friendship with the fraternal Korean people are rejoicing over the brilliant DPRK achievements in socialist construction. Workers in our country support the Korean people's struggle to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country on a democratic basis and extend encouragement to this struggle. They express confidence that the Korean people will win victory in their just cause.

Comrade Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador to the Soviet Union, said: Respected and beloved comrades, we greet the significant 29th anniversary of the agreement for economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in circumstances in which friendship and cooperation between our countries have developed with the passage of time. Comrade Kim Chae-pong said that the Korean people value the friendship they have cultivated in the course of common struggle and their solidarity with the Soviet people, and that they will solidify and develop this friendship and cooperation based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. Comrade Kim Chae-pong concluded: I sincerely wish you great success in implementing the 10th 5-Year Plan. Long live the invincible solidarity between the peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union.

SIGNING OF CUBA-PRC TRADE PROTOCOL REPORTED

LD191440Y Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Havana, March 19, TASS--A protocol on trade turnover in 1978 between Cuba and the PRC was signed here as a result of the talks of the Cuban and Chinese delegations. The document was signed by Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Manuel Estefania Seocane and the PRC's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Wang Jun-sheng.

CUBA EXPRESSES CONDEMNATION OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION

LD191157Y Moscow TASS in English 1142 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Havana, March 19, TASS--Cuba has condemned resolutely Israel's aggression against Lebanon. A statement of the Cuban Foreign Ministry circulated here says that as a result of the aggressive actions of Tel Aviv which flouts human rights and principles of the United Nations Charter, peace and stability were jeopardized in the Middle East, Lebanon's sovereignty and integrity were violated, large death toll among the population and material damages were caused. Such Israeli actions became possible only due to the backing of the United States which is Israel's main political, economic and military support, the statement says.

Cuba will take appropriate steps in the United Nations, at all international forums to pool the efforts of countries to condemn Israel and put an end to its policy of genocide, the statement of the Cuban Foreign Ministry says in conclusion.

MOUNTING RESISTANCE TO TERROR REPORTED IN NICARAGUA

LD180238U Moscow TASS in English 1920 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Caracas, March 17, TASS--The Somoza family in Nicaragua, which usurped power with U.S. support, have unleashed extremely fierce reprisals in that country. This was stated by Ernesto Cardenal, a Nicaraguan poet and clergyman in an interview for the Venezuelan magazine LA SEMANA.

It is the Nicaraguan peasants that fall victim to the terror in the first place, he said. The henchmen of the dictatorial regime throw them into jails, subject them to savage torture, kill them, burn up their homes; humiliate old people and children, and rape women. In a massacre staged by the national guard in one of the villages all of its inhabitants were killed, including 4 men 15 women and 29 children.

In reply to the fierce reprisals of the dictatorship the Nicaraguan people are stepping up their resistance to the reactionary regime, they support the armed struggle of the Sandino National Liberation Front.

The aim of the SANO front, Ernesto Cardenal emphasized, is to overthrow the Somoza dictatorial regime and establish genuine democracy under which the people would enjoy all freedoms while the landless peasants would receive land.

The front program provides for the nationalisation of Somoza's entire property and handing it over to the people as well as for carrying out land reform.

In an article carried by the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA the poet and clergymen underlined that General Somoza continued to receive weapons from the United States, the weapons that are later used in punitive operations against the people of that Central American country.

ARRIVAL OF U.S. FORCES IN CANAL ZONE LINKED TO TREATY

LD1714417 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Correspondent A. Karmen report: "Uncle Sam is Flexing his Muscles"]

[Text] Lima--Alarming news is coming in from Panama. A landing force has arrived in the Panama Canal Zone--almost 1,000 paratroopers specially coached in fighting "subversive activity." Despite a statement by a representative of the U.S. military command to the effect that the paratroopers' arrival at the Fort Sherman military base is of a purely training nature, the detachment's appearance has given rise to serious anxieties among the Panamanian public.

The Panamanians' fears have strong grounds. Since mid-February Americans working and living in the Canal Zone, the so-called zonians, have been calling openly for sabotage and a strike with a view to paralyzing this waterway. The second, unofficial, explanation of the reason for the arrival of U.S. special troops in Panama--to maintain order in the event of a rebellion by the zonians--also sounds unconvincing, to put it mildly. History knows of no cases where U.S. troops stationed in the Canal Zone have turned their bayonets against "their own."

Tension has arisen in connection with the U.S. Senate's discussion of the new Panama Canal treaty. The provocative fuss in the zone is pressure on Washington to prevent the ratification of this document. As is well known, the new treaty is the product of difficult negotiations lasting 13 years.

Despite the fact that the treaty and the documents accompanying it are of a compromise nature and leave Washington with great advantages, including military ones, its signing was assessed by the world public as a major success for the Panamanian people in their years-long struggle to achieve total sovereignty for their motherland. But there are many people in the United States who are against closing the page on 75 years of U.S. colonial rule in the Canal Zone.

According to the voting procedure, the new treaty can be ratified by the United States if it is supported by at least 67 senators. The supporters of ratification are still having no success in achieving this majority on Capitol Hill. A number of senators want to make their support conditional on all sorts of "amendments" and "additions" aimed to some extent or other at perpetuating the U.S. presence on the isthmus.

Cunningly using all these contradictions, the opponents of the new treaty are striving to create an explosive situation in the Canal Zone and open up a unique "second front" there for bringing strong pressure to bear on the senate. And the appearance of the new contingent of U.S. punitive troops in the Canal Zone and the overt show of strength at a critical moment in U.S.-Panamanian relations will scarcely promote calm on the isthmus. "Goliath is flexing his muscles," the Latin American press is noting in this connection. The so-called military exercises, the Panamanian newspaper CRITICA emphasizes, "are aimed at intimidating the Panamanians who, with their government, are taking a firm, dignified and sovereign position."

CPSU ACADEMY COMPLETES LATEST STUDY COURSE FOR LEADERS

LD201533Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "The Training of Party Cadres"]

[Text] Studies have finished in the latest course at the institute for raising the qualifications of leading party and Soviet cadres in the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences. At the center of attention of the institute's students--first secretaries of party gorkoms of republican, kray and oblast centers and a number of the country's other major cities--were questions of Marxist-Leninist theory; the party's domestic and foreign policy; the 25th CPSU Congress documents; the new USSR Constitution, and topical problems of scientific communism elaborated in the works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other party leaders.

In the study process, an all-round examination was given to the tasks involved in further raising the level of the work of party committees and organizations and improving the form and methods of managing economic and sociocultural development in light of the decisions of the 25th party congress, the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum, and the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee to the working people of the country.

The students were addressed by: A.P. Kirilenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.E. Dymshits, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; V.V. Listov and K.S. Simonov, CPSU Central Committee section chiefs; Academician A.P. Aleksandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; R.I. Kosolapov, chief editor of the journal KOMMUNIST: T.B. Guzhenko and N.A. Shchelokov, ministers of the USSR: H.N. Pastukhov, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee; responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus and the USSR Council of Ministers; leaders of ministeries, departments, scientific institutions and organizations.

A broad exchange of experience took place on the work of fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan.

UKRAINIAN CONSTITUTIONAL BODY APPROVES DRAFT CONSTITUTION

LD201640Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] A session of the commission for drafting the Ukrainian SSR's constitution took place in Kiev today. It was chaired by Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party and chairman of the constitutional commission. The commission reviewed and on the whole approved the draft constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, and adopted the decision to put forward a proposal to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium to have it published for an all-republican discussion.

SHCHERBITSKIY ATTENDS UKRAINIAN CPCC PLENUM IN KIEV

AU210956Y Kiev Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 21 Mar 78 AU

[Text] A plenum of the Ukrainian CP Central Committee opened in Kiev today. Issues concerning the Ukrainian SSR draft constitution and the Ukrainian SSR state anthem are on the agenda. A report on the first issue was delivered by Vladimir Vasilyevich Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary and chairman of the commission for drafting the Ukrainian constitution. The debate on the report has just begun.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

CPSU CC ISSUES RESOLUTION ON CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY

LD210909Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the question "Of the Work of the USSR Ministry of Construction With Leading and Technical Engineering Cadres."

The resolution notes that the USSR Ministry of Construction is carrying out a definite amount of work on improving the composition and education of leading and technical engineering cadres. Most republic ministries, main administrations, trusts and administrations are headed by skilled, politically mature specialists, able organizers and educators. Measures are being adopted to further strengthen the leadership of construction organizations' technical and economic services and improve the efficiency of engineering work.

At the same time the CPSU Central Committee resolution points out that the standard of the ministry's work with leading and technical engineering cadres is not up to the requirements of the 25th CPSU Congress and the heightened tasks in the area of capital construction. Serious shortcomings in selecting and educating cadres is one reason for the ministry's inability to fulfill the state plan and its failure to meet schedules for commissioning many projects and production capacities.

The ministry Collegium and its territorial organizations have failed to make work with cadres one of the decisive conditions for improving production activity in every subunit. They are also doing a poor job of directing the efforts of thousands of specialists toward introducing progressive work methods and new materials and designs, toward bringing into play reserves for increasing labor productivity and toward making construction cheaper. A considerable number of regular [lineynyy] technical engineering workers has no specialized education. Some economic leaders display little concern for specialists' creative growth and often encumber them with work requiring no engineering skills.

The ministry is not carrying out purposeful work to create a promotion reserve. People are often appointed to leading posts without a careful study and check of their work qualities. The high rate of turnover of chiefs of territorial main administrations, construction administrations, trust managers and construction and assembly administration chiefs is particularly alarming. The turnover of cadres in the Kirgiz SSR and Tadzhik SSR construction ministries and in the Kalininskiy, Smolenskiy and Kirovskiy territorial administrations is very high. A poor job is made of securing young specialists for production jobs.

The ministry Collegium and cadre administration are not persistent in fulfilling their own decisions on questions of work with cadres. Construction site cadre sections play an inadequate organizing role. A substantial proportion of their associates lack the necessary training and often do no more than draw up documents without exercising proper influence on improving cadre selection and placement.

The ministry's existing system of retraining and improving the skills of leading and technical engineering workers is not entirely up to the requirements of present-day construction and lacks an adequate material and technical base. The training covers only a small proportion of top-level leaders.

The CPSU Central Committee resolution also notes that local party organs do not always devote due attention to correctly selecting and educating cadres in construction organizations or to studying and eliminating the reasons for the high turnover of leading personnel. They sometimes fail to give working people the necessary assistance and support and tolerate the substitution of bureaucratic administration for painstaking work with people.

The CPSU Central Committee drew the attention of the USSR Construction Ministry Collegium to serious shortcomings in work with leading and technical engineering workers in subordinate organizations and enterprises. The CPSU Central Committee charged Minister Comrade Karavayev and Deputy Minister for Cadres Comrade Panfilov with the task of adopting measures to resolutely improve this work and to insure both unswerving observance of the Leninist principles of cadre selection and placement in terms of their work and political qualities and implementation of the party's instructions on combining an attentive and solicitous attitude toward people with great exactingness.

The ministry Collegium and its territorial organizations must treat the practical implementation of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum in the capital construction sphere as their main task. The efforts of leaders and specialists at all levels must be focused on insuring that the very important statewide industrial, agricultural and social projects nearing completion are commissioned in strict accordance with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers 26 January 1978 resolution.

The CPSU Central Committee demanded that the ministry enhance leading cadres' sense of responsibility for the job in hand and for strict observance of state and plan discipline. The CPSU Control Committee also demanded that the ministry not tolerate a conciliatory attitude toward failure by leaders of a number of contract organizations to insure that established construction targets are fulfilled and proper measures adopted to make efficient use of material, technical and labor resources. Cadres must be persistently educated in the spirit of a creative attitude toward work and of initiative and businesslike approach; they must also be active vehicles of the party's policy, organizers of socialist competition and champions of technical progress.

The ministry Collegium and leaders of territorial organizations are charged with adopting necessary measures to secure engineers and technicians for production jobs. To this end it is necessary to insure a constant improvement in production, housing, cultural and everyday conditions for foremen, work superintendents and section chiefs, and make greater use of existing opportunitites of moral and material incentives for their labor. Everything must be done to enhance the business and social activity of young specialists, help them master the art of leading collectives and show greater sensitivity to their daily needs. Shortcomings in organizing industrial training must be eliminated and its role in molding specialists must be enhanced.

The CPSU Central Committee instructed the union republic communist party central committees, kraykoms and obkoms to investigate more deeply the activity of republic ministries, territorial administrations, trusts and other construction organizations and enterprises. It also instructed them to display concern for the correct placement of leading cadres and specialists and for educating them in the spirit of high responsibility for the fulfillment of the state plans. The questions of reducing cadre turnover, ending the unjustified replacement of leaders and specialists and insuring the stability of the composition of construction worker collectives require special attention from party organs.

Party, trade union and Komsomol organizations and economic leaders must persistently strive to create a sociopolitical climate in every collective that engenders a desire to work better, more efficiently and more productively, and which creates an atmosphere of implacability toward absentees and idlers; toward instances of failure to meet prescribed targets for commissioning production capacities and projects, and toward manifestations of carelessness and negligence.

It is necessary to insure broad participation by construction production leaders and specialists in the work of social organizations for invention, rationalization and dissemination of leading experience and scientific, technical and political knowledge. Their efforts must be directed toward molding ideological conviction, an active life stance and high moral qualities in working people. Constant attention must be paid to the questions of organizing profound study in construction worker collectives of the party's economic policy, the decisions of the CPSU congresses and the works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The ministry's party committee is recommended to strive to insure both the strengthening of the role of the management apparatus in fulfilling the tasks entrusted to the ministry and the assertion of a genuinely party style in its work. The committee must display high exactingness toward communists and all apparatus leading personnel regarding the strengthening of everyday liaison with construction subunits, the profound study of cadres in their practical deeds and specific assistance for them.

The USSR Ministry of Construction is instructed to take measures to further improve the system for retraining and raising the qualifications of cadres, strengthen its material base and raise the quality of instruction.

It is deemed advisable to create interdepartmental training centers and branches for raising the qualifications of leading cadres and construction production specialists. The USSR Gosstroy, along with the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and construction ministries and departments, is instructed to prepare appropriate proposals.

The USSR Gosplan, along with the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the ministries and departments concerned, is instructed to expand the training of engineers with construction specialities in accordance with the national economy's requirements. Measures must be elaborated and implemented to increase the numbers of rural construction specialists trained. When these are disturbed, particular account must be taken of the needs of the rayons of the RSFSR Non-Chernozem Zone.

The USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and construction ministries and departments are recommended to constantly improve training programs with consideration for the increasing demands made on construction production specialists. The accelerated training of engineers and construction technicians from among people with secondary specialized or general secondary education and the necessary experience of work in production must become wider practice in higher and secondary technical educational institutions.

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT UP--The RSFSR Central Statistical Administration reports that RSFSR workers increased industrial output by 5.6 percent in comparison with last year in the period January-February. The planned growth rate for the entire year was 4.5 percent. The February and 2-month plan for marketing industrial output has been fulfilled by 100 percent. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD] Marketing industrial output in the first two months of 1978 was overfulfilled by industry as a whole in all the union republics and by the majority of industrial ministries. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0530 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD]

SOYUZ-27 CREWMEN BEGIN READJUSTMENT TO EARTH GRAVITY

LD201600Y Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20 TASS--TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov writes:

Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko took a walk today together. From this day they actually stopped feeling the effects of weightlessness. Exactly 100 days passed since they were put into the orbit.

One of the most memorable events of the work in space for Georgiy Grechko is his space walk. He recalls that the sun felt hot even though the space suit eliminates immediately any thermal loads. The sky seemed more colourful and vaster than during observations through the porthole.

Assessing the work on board the Salyut-6 Grechko said that the work at the orbital station was organized in a qualitatively new way. For the first time the crew had the opportunity to work in the same regime as on earth. The customary routine related to Moscow time was maintained practically throughout the entire three months.

Changes in the cosmonauts' daily schedule show that the first acute period of the crew's readjustment to the earth's conditions is being concluded. Their schedule now provides time for conversation with engineers on the functioning of separate systems. The first results of the flight were summed up at the meeting of the state commission.

The supervisor of the cosmonauts' training, Vladimir Shatalov, told newsmen: "Vast and fruitful work has been completed. It opened the opportunity for transition to a qualitatively new stage in exploration and use of outer space".

The cosmonauts undergo thorough medical checks. The analysis of the results obtained will make it possible to draw up a substantiated program of further work on board orbital stations in which cosmonauts from other socialist countries will take part.

BRIEFS

ANTARCTIC SHIPPING--The Almaznyy diesel-electric vessel of the Vostokrybkholodflot Administration is in the Antarctic area. The Altayskiye Gory motorship is taking on a cargo of frozen products in the same area. [Vladivostok Maritime Service in Russian to the Pacific Far East 0700 GMT 17 Mar 78 OW]

NEW MHD INSTALLATION--In the Soviet Union, an MHD installation with an American superconductive magnetic system has produced current. In such machines, thermal energy is directly transformed into electricity. The current from the installation's generator has entered Moscow's power grid. The installation, assembled at the Moscow High Temperatues Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, includes a U.S.-made broadpole superconductive magnet. This first start-up of the installation, to test the unit's design for a subsequent extensive introduction into power engineering, is an important step in scientific and technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD]

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